Palacios says witness stand chair was 'very uncomfortable' PAGE 3
Joshua Wise is elected as new Red Cross board chair. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

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Another gas price rollback

A Mobil Oil Marianas signboard displays the new reduced gas prices.
KIMBERLY ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local oil companies continue to reduce their fuel prices, this time by another 15 cents that caught many motorists pleasantly surprised.

See GAS on Page 4

IN CIVIL CASE VS ARTMAN DRIVER

Settlement reached, dismissal underway

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A settlement agreement among the parties in the civil case against Artman Environmental Corp. driver Eduardo Fabia has been approved by the court and a motion to dis-

See DRIVER on Page 4

'House has not passed any revenue-generating bill to fund retirees' 25% pension'

» Torres: Unused ARPA money will be used for gov't operations in FY '23

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has not passed a revenue-generating bill to provide funding for the retirees' 25% pension. Also,

See HOUSE on Page 4

FSM last of bigger nations to have COVID-19 outbreak

The aerial photo shows Pohnpei International Airport in Kolonia, Federated States of Micronesia, on Aug. 5, 2019.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The Federated States of Micronesia has likely become the final nation in the world with a population of more than 100,000 to experience an outbreak of COVID-19.

For more than two-and-a-half years, the Pacific archipelago managed to avoid any outbreaks thanks to its geographic isolation and border

See FSM on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

MOON OVER MOUNT CARMEL
Last week's supermoon, which occurred on the night of July 13, 2022, is shown shining just beyond the crown of the statue f the Virgin Mary and Christ Child in front of the Mount Carmel Cathedral, as shown in this user-generated image submitted by reader Joey Connolly. This was the second supermoon of the year and was called the "Buck Moon" because the antlers of male deer (bucks) are in full-growth mode at this time.
JOEY CONNOLLY

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Elon Musk lost his fight to delay Twitter's lawsuit against him after a judge on set an October trial.
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ASIA
One person has died in a gas explosion that injured 12 others at a building in the city of Tianjin.
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ENVIRONMENT
A five-year report found Australia's environment continues to deteriorate due to climate change.
PAGE 14

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Local

Members of the Workforce Investment Agency and Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente pose with Rotary Club of Saipan members during their meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan yesterday.
CHRYSTAL GASES

WIA briefs Rotary Club of Saipan on Apprenticeship Program

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Members of the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency joined the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday to introduce and share the mission of the fairly new Apprenticeship State Expansion program.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente led a group that included WIA director Frances Torres and program manager Joe Villacrusis, as well as Colleen Diaz and Lanie Kay Cruz, to tell Rotary members about how the program can meet local employment needs.

Villacrusis and Torres noted that the Apprenticeship State Expansion program has been one of the most used and favored work program in the United States for several years, and is fairly new to the CNMI, having been in operation for only three years.

Torres said that, as people retire, there is a need to fill those vacancies and the Apprenticeship State Expansion is a way to help grow and upscale employees to fill those future vacancies.

Villacrusis said he has heard it said that there are no available workers on the islands, but in reality there are individuals who want to work but have no proper education or the certification needed to fill certain vacant occupations. He noted that the federally-funded Apprenticeship State Expansion program is not only beneficial to those looking for certification in a particular occupation, but it is also beneficial to employers who want to build an upscale workforce and a solid timeline of certified workers.

Villacrusis also cited the partnership between the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and the Northern Marianas College in providing certain classes that apprentices will need to take. The timeline of the program itself is around two to four years and "so it's almost as if they are going to college but working at the same time."

Villacrusis said that if a business is registered with them, the apprenticeship program will ultimately be customized by apprentice's employers and any needed assistance would be given to the employers in the process. Upon graduation, apprentices will receive certification from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The club meeting was also attended by visiting U.S Rotarians Brett Doney from the Rotary Club of Great Falls Montana and Gynii Gillian from the Coeur d' Alene Rotary in Idaho, alongside with guests Victor Garza of the Alice Rotary Club in Alice Texas, and Delaney Luna from Washington, D.C.

Group to mark Earhart's birthday

The Amelia Earhart Saipan Memorial Monument, Inc. will be celebrating Amelia Earhart's 125th birthday on July 23, 2022, Saturday, at the American Memorial Park Indoor Theatre from 1pm to 3pm.

Earhart

AESMMI is inviting the descendants of local eyewitnesses to join us in sharing the stories with those interested. Some of the known eyewitnesses are Josephine Blanco (Akiyama), Matilde F. Arriola, Joaquina Muna Cabrera, Jose Sadao Tomokane, Manuel Aldan, Carlos Palacios, Antonio M. Cepeda, Pedro Sakisat, Gregorio Camacho (Ellis), Francisco Diaz, Jesus Boyer, Francisco Tudela, and Jesus Salas.

Please call or message Frances Sablan at (670) 783-5512, or email francessablan@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending the storytelling session. ***(PR)***

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Palacios says witness stand chair was 'very uncomfortable'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In recounting the circumstances that led to his collapse last May 31 while giving testimony during a hearing at the U.S. Courthouse, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios compared the witness chair he was sitting on to a barstool that he described as" very uncomfortable" and that his back was starting to get tired.

Speaking Tuesday at a press conference in his office on Capital Hill, the 66-year-old Palacios recalled that when he tried to get off the chair to stand up after the judge granted his request for a break, his knees collapsed because they have become numb.

"And that's why I ended up on the floor," he said.

The incident happened as Palacios was giving testimony for an evidentiary hearing on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' motion to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General from prosecuting the case. Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino was presiding over the hearing inside the courtroom of Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja.

Palacios

Palacios said it was when he fell to the floor that his back spasmed, which was why he yelled out about his back. "I was in pain. I've never experienced a muscle pain like that," Palacios recalled.

Palacios was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was sedated. At CHC, he said, doctors and nurses took care of him for four days before he was medevacked to Queen's Healthcare Center in Hawaii last June 3.

Palacios said the doctors at CHC looked into many different issues—cardio, cardiovascular, even orthopedic—and basically ruled them out.

He said he eventually knew he had a neuro-related problem because of his issue two to three years ago. He said he was very fortunate that he was able to contact and get in touch with his neurosurgeon oat the Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

Palacios said during their Zoom conference, his neurosurgeon gave him a bunch of items he needed to look for in some of the MRI tests results that had been done on Palacios. He said the neurosurgeon was able to give him a rundown on what kind of exercise he needs.

In Honolulu, Palacios said, they looked and checked his cardio and different areas to determine whether he had a heart attack or a stroke. He said he believes it's back to his neuro-related problem he had before and they're going to be taking a closer look at it.

He said his neurosurgeon, however, found nothing has really changed, based on the MRI test results that they provided him. Palacios said he just need to get back in shape and that's why he started los-

See PALACIOS on Next Page

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2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
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2010 FORD RAPTOR SVT
SALE PRICE $39,995 | 49,102 MILES | STK:10P447 | KBB: $41,563

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHABCK
SALE PRICE $16,995 | 10,601 MILES | STK: 18HS950 | KBB: $17,059

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
SALE PRICE $19,995 | 45,500 MILES | STK: 22M051A | KBB: $22,605

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE
SALE PRICE $26,995 | 33,750 MILES | STK:22M050A | KBB: $27,271

2019 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD
SALE PRICE $44,995 | 12,563 MILES | STK:19P488 | KBB: $45,417

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT
SALE PRICE $16,995 | 56,727 MILES | STK: 16P390A | KBB: $17,845

2018 HYUNDAI KONA
SALE PRICE $19,995 | 24,415 MILES | STK: 21D129A | KBB: $19,455

2020 TOYOTA C-HR LE
SALE PRICE $26,995 | 16,910 MILES | STK: 20P413 | KBB: $27,407

2019 KIA STINGER GT2
SALE PRICE $44,995 | 18,501 MILES | STK:19P455 | KBB: $45,870

2016 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING
SALE PRICE $16,995 | 80,103 MILES | STK: 16P427 | KBB: $18,150

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Babauta files her candidacy for Saipan senator

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) filed yesterday her candidacy for Saipan senator, while Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan) also filed her candidacy for re-election as a House of Representatives' member representing Precinct 3.

Babauta and Yangetmai were accompanied by their family members, supporters, and officials and members of the NMI Democratic Party, when they submitted their petition for nomination and candidacy documents to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol in the CEC office in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

In a later interview, Babauta said she is running for a senatorial seat this time instead of seeking re-election as a representative because she feels that her service is needed at the Senate at this time.

Babauta, who chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, said she believes that, in leaving her colleagues at the House, it will remain in good hands

"I'm confident they will carry on with continuing their service to the people of the Marianas," she said.

As chair of the House's JGO Committee, Babauta said this makes her very busy since 85% to 90% of proposed bills go to her committee. "So that has kept me on my toes, but never have I wavered from my service to our people, and that was first and foremost in my mind," she said.

Yangetmai said she is seeking re-election because of so many unfinished projects in her precinct that need to be completed.

Yangetmai, who chairs the Cannabis Committee and the Commerce and Tourism Committee, said the Democrat lawmakers are doing a great job in the Legislature and that they want to continue that.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan, who is the Democratic Party's candidate for governor in the Nov. 8 general election, said Babauta and Yangetmai decided to file their candidacies early because they are going for an off-island conference.

Sablan said she and the rest of the party candidates will file their candidacies on Aug. 5.

Sablan and her running mate, Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) were among those who came to the CEC to support Babauta and Yangetmai. Rep. Corina L. Magofna, a former Democrat who is running for Saipan senator as an independent, also showed up to CEC to show her support.

» Yangetmai seeking re-election

GAS

From Page 1

Both Shell Marianas and Mobil Oil Marianas reduced their gas prices again less than a week since their last price rollback. Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead late last Tuesday afternoon while Shell Marianas followed suit early yesterday morning.

With the latest rollback, a gallon of regular fuel now costs $5.86 from $6.01. Supreme fuel was also reduced from $6.46 per gallon to $6.31 while diesel finally went down from $7.13 per gallon to $6.98.

This week's fuel price rollback finally brought Saipan's gas below the $6 mark after months of seeing prices gradually approach the $7 mark.

Motorists were more than happy to fill up their tanks following the rollback.

According to a 45-year-old man, he was planning to buy only $20 worth of gas for his vehicle but after seeing the price rollback, he said he decided to splurge and fill up his tank instead.

"I've learned that you just never know what to expect with these fuel prices. This might be the lowest we'll see fuel prices drop. By next week, fuel might be back to $6 so I thought might as well fill up the tank now while prices are relatively low. It feels great to finally be able to fill up the tank," he said.

Another motorist said she doesn't want to keep her hopes up.

"We should be used to this by now. They tease us with a little reduction in fuel prices, just to raise it back up higher than before. All we can do now is take advantage of this opportunity to gas our cars at below $6," she said.

Starting last July 5, the CNMI saw a series of price rollbacks, with fuel dropping from $6.56 per gallon of regular fuel from the beginning of the month, to now at $5.86.

The first rollback was seen on July 4, with local oil companies reducing prices by 15 cents from $6.56 to $6.41. Then, just 24 hours later, in the early hours of July 7, the CNMI saw the largest rollback by far when oil companies dropped their prices by 25 cents, from $6.41 to $6.16. The third rollback in July was seen last Thursday, with fuel prices dropping to $6.01.

However, prior to the consecutive reduction in fuel prices, the CNMI saw string of increases.

The latest increase in fuel prices happened in the first few weeks of June with local oil companies across Saipan raising prices by 15 cents, followed by a few increases throughout the month.

Prior to the string of increases seen in June, a steady increase in fuel prices was also seen throughout the month of May with the last increase of 15 cents seen on May 20.

However, oil companies have been raising their prices by 15 cents since April. The steepest increase the CNMI has seen in the past few months was back in April 20, when local oil companies increased their prices by 20 cents, bringing regular fuel prices up to $5.96 for a gallon.

HOUSE

From Page 1

there is no casino Business Gross Revenue Tax collections this fiscal year that can be used for the retirees' 25% pension.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres outlined the House's failure to pass revenue generating bill in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comments regarding two House members' criticism of the governor's revised budget submission for the government's operations in fiscal year 2023.

At a House session Monday, House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) questioned Torres' proposed revised budget submission, which according to him does not include operational budget for any of the agencies, yet allocates funding for salary increases for Cabinet members. At the same session, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) shared Manglona's disappointment over the governor's proposed revised budget submission, which she described as "reckless and completely irresponsible."

Torres said yesterday that Finance Secretary David DLG Torres has provided the Legislature with answers to their concerns over the usage of American Rescue Plan Act funding for the retirees' 25% pension, which is not something that the CNMI can do with any of the ARPA funding given to the CNMI.

Casino BGRT collected from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC used to pay for the retirees' 25% pension. IPI's casino, however, has remains closed since March 2020.

The governor said the Legislature has been, and is still encouraged, to locate new sources of funding to pay for the 25% pension.

As for the concerns of the House majority about lack of funding for operations within the budget, Torres said operations for the CNMI government will be funded using unused ARPA funding that will be carried over from fiscal year 2022 and allocations from ARPA for fiscal year 2023.

"My administration continues to work hard to revive this tourism industry, and explore ways to develop other industries to generate revenue for the Commonwealth," he said.

FSM

From Page 1

controls. Those people who flew into the country with the disease didn't spread it because all new arrivals were required to quarantine.

But as has been the case in several other Pacific nations this year, those defenses couldn't keep out the more transmissible omicron variant forever.

On Tuesday, the government announced it had become aware of multiple cases across two of the nation's four states.

Authorities said that in Kosrae State, 25 people tested positive after showing up at a local hospital. An additional 10 people from a family of 11 tested positive after a medical team visited them.

Authorities said they had also found seven community cases in the state of Pohnpei. State leaders there have asked all residents to avoid public gatherings and to wear masks at all times.

The outbreak comes less than two weeks before Micronesia planned to end its quarantine restrictions and reopen its borders to the world on Aug. 1.

Last year, Micronesia became one of the few countries to impose a broad mandate requiring all eligible citizens get vaccinated against the coronavirus. It threatened to withhold federal funds from any individuals or business owners who didn't follow the rules, and as a result has had high vaccination rates.

Almost all nations in the world have now experienced COVID-19 outbreaks.

Turkmenistan is the only other country with more than 100,000 people that hasn't reported any cases, although experts believe there has been a significant outbreak there that the autocratic leadership has chosen to ignore.

There have also been headaches for health officials trying to compile figures from North Korea.

In May, North Korea acknowledged it had a COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, it has reported nearly 4.8 million cases with fever symptoms, but in state media has identified only a fraction of them as confirmed COVID-19 patients, due in part to a lack of test kits.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, the omicron variant has spread the coronavirus to several small nations for the first time this year, including Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa and Nauru.

Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands have so far managed to avoid any community outbreaks. The Marshall Islands plans to end its border quarantine requirements from Oct. 1.

DRIVER

From Page 1

miss the case entirely has been filed.

Following a motion hearing last Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio accepted the settlement agreement filed by Fabia and the family of Raju Miah, the man who died following a fatal collision between the truck he was on and the Artman garbage truck in February 2021.

The settlement agreement remains confidential and was not available to the public as of press time.

Following the order granting the settlement agreement, the parties filed a stipulation and proposed order to dismiss the case in its entirety.

As of yesterday, the court had yet to sign off on the stipulation and proposed order.

The family of Miah, who is being represented by a close friend, Khorshed Alam, filed the civil case against Fabia back in March 2021 soon after the CNMI government filed a criminal case against the Artman garbage truck driver.

Alam said in his complaint that the dead man's family incurred costs and expenses, such as medical expenses, hospital bills, funeral, and other cost related to Miah's death.

Additionally, Alam said, the Miah family has suffered economic and non-economic damages, severe pain and suffering, emotional and mental distress, and decreased wellbeing.

Alam argued that Fabia had a duty to drive reasonably to avoid unreasonable risk of harm to himself and others, and to obey all traffic laws and signs to avoid putting others at risk.

Alam accused Fabia of driving Artman's truck in a "reckless, negligent, and dangerous manner on a public road" and failed to stop at a red light at a traffic intersection, causing Miah to be killed.

However, back in May, Fabia was found innocent, by jury, on the charges of homicide by vehicle and failure to obey a traffic signal.

PALACIOS

From Page 3

ing weight and getting back into better shape.

Palacios said there is no timeline in terms of what he needs to follow up as he just need to stay out of a high-sodium diet and change his diet.

"I'm on a really strict diet right now and strict maintenance regime," he said.

Palacios said he just needs to get to a physical therapist on Saipan to continue the physical therapy session that he started in Honolulu.

Palacios was supposed to stay in Honolulu for another week and a half, but with his progress, doctors and therapists gave him the go-signal to go back home.

He said being out 45 days is a long time as he needs to attend to his job and other matters.

Palacios said he is grateful to all members of the community for praying for his health, the first responders who brought him from court to CHC, and to the doctors and nurses at CHC for taking care of him before he was medevacked.

Palacios also thanked Torres for making sure that he got the attention he needed for the medevac.

"I'm grateful that I am okay and I'm back and I am going to continue to recover, rehabilitate, and hopefully lead a more healthy life," said Palacios, adding that he also quit smoking.

"So crossing my fingers, I haven't had a beer either," said Palacios, smiling.

As for his candidacy for governor as an independent, Palacios assured that regardless of his physical health, he is still committed to give it his best.

"I would put my experience out there. …I think at the end of the day, age doesn't matter, how young you are, how old you are, how experienced you are, how inexperienced you are. It's going to all come down to what is in your heart to give the community," he said.

Joshua Wise is elected as new Red Cross board chair

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has elected Joshua Wise as its new board chair.

Wise

Wise, who has been active with the NMI Chapter for several years through PHI Pharmacy and has been serving on the board since 2021, was elected during a recent board meeting. Wise was also actively involved in the American Red Cross gala fundraising event in April at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

"We are pleased to have Josh step up into this important role and look forward to his leadership over the next 12 months" said John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

Wise Josh takes over from Mable Glenn, who led the NMI Chapter over the past year.

The Red Cross board, staff and volunteers are grateful to Glenn for her outstanding work and tireless efforts and compassion to promote the Red Cross humanitarian work.

For more information about the Red Cross or how to get involved, go to www.redcross.org/nmi or call the Chapter at 234-3459.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. ***(PR)***

Nominate a Community Hero for Bridge of Light Award by Sept. 9

To honor and thank those who have helped victims, survivors, and the community in the movement to end violence in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is seeking nominations for the prestigious Bridge of Light Award.

The Bridge of Light Award is NMCADSV's annual effort to honor the efforts and accomplishments of one extraordinary individual in the CNMI who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors.

Those eligible to be nominated include service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI. The nominee must have been employed/volunteered for a minimum of one year and/or have demonstrated one or more extraordinary accomplishments to help sustain the movement. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a family member or friend of a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOLA2022WebLink. The deadline to submit a completed nomination form is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022.

Those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based only on the information provided on the form. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that those nominating has to provide specific details to thoroughly show why their nominee is deserving of the award.

The recipient of the 2022 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony slated for October. The award recipient will also be presented with the opportunity to attend a retreat or training courtesy of NMCADSV and self-care prizes.

Past recipients include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services' executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, Karidat Social Services' counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc.'s executive director Diana Camacho, the Attorney General Office's victim advocate John Aguon, DYS director Vivian T. Sablan, DPS officer Rose Taman Rios, and, most recently, Karidat Social Services' victim advocate Calvani P. Deleon Guerrero.

For more information on the nomination process or sponsorship, contact the NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(NMCADSV)***

File photo shows Karidat Social Services' victim advocate Calvani P. Deleon Guerrero, third from left, being honored with the Bridge of Light Award last year.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Building women-owned small businesses in the CNMI

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the CNMI Women's Association recently completed a five-week entrepreneurial course with 20 participants. In the photo are (top row, from left): Mercilynn K. Palec, Manju Pandey, Kimberly C. Camacho, Glorybel Tan, Valentina Rivera, and Roxanne Diaz. Seated from left are Materri Garcia and Sheryl Suwei.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As part of its efforts to build entrepreneurial capacity among women in the CNMI, the CNMI Small Business Development Center and the CNMI Women's Association recently partnered to provide a five-week training course to 20 women entrepreneurs.

The women were able to learn about the CNMI SBDC network programs and services. In addition, the participants learned about the importance of having a business plan as well as how to create one.

Participants also learned about the financial aspects of starting or expanding a business. Financing opportunities were presented by Marie Coleman of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, Jesus Taisague of the Department of Commerce, and Vicente Agulto and Charmaine Hofschneider of Bank of Guam.

New business owners were introduced to marketing strategies and current business owners learned more about expanding their reach through social media marketing. Valentina Rivera of Local Goodys shared her business' goal to create a space for CNMI businesses to showcase and sell their products and services through her online website.

Guest speakers Jill Arenovski of Saipan Snaps and Yeldez Javier of Kiara's Gift Shop & Garden shared their experiences in opening and expanding their business in the CNMI to the participants.

During the final week of the program, the participants came together to share their business' products and services as well as a reflection on the program's successes.

Kimberly Camacho, an aspiring business owner who completed the program, said the project was an amazing learning experience.

"Working alongside courageous women is definitely empowering," Camacho said.

"The material and presentations were super beneficial to the process and goal of business planning. Walking into the project, I had little to no experience on how to establish and run a business but after completing the project, I feel confident enough to start the journey to own my own business one day!"

The CNMI SBDC Network and the CWA thanks all guests, partners, and participants for their part in the success of the program.

To register for free one-on-one counseling, please register at marianas.ecenterdirect.com, email mercilynn.palec@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6888. ***(PR)***

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
1. June 2, 2022 - Regular Meeting
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]
III. REPORTS
a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
a. Casino License
1) Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Executive Director Position
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]
VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Thursday, July 21, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
1. June 8, 2022
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
A. Executive Director's Report
1. Administrative - Adoption of the Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations
2. Loan Matter -
a. Frances S. Arriola
b. Board's Concurrence on the Three-Month Payment Relief for CEDA Loan Clients
B. Comptroller's Report
1. Financial Report - Update
C. Qualifying Certificate Program/Economic Development Activities -
1. Programs' Update
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman

15 MCS graduates 'Start Smart' at NMC

Alyson Red Velarde Camacho

Ariel Sumiishi Morales

Chelsea Taylor Palacios Olouachel

Christopher Adam L Mafnas

David Rui Li

Francel Lumanlan

Gayle Noreen Habaluyas Vidal

Haani Skylar Tomokane Seman

Jennalyn Rose Travilla

Jimin Kwon

Kaia De Jesus Travilla

Kiana Lei Manglona Propst

Margarita Leighanna Sanchez Terlaje

Michael Canice Litulumar Camacho

Vidal Jose Borja Sablan

A group of recent Mount Carmel School graduates have committed to attend Northern Marianas College starting this fall 2022.

The MCS graduates who will soon be joining the NMC family are Alyson Red Velarde Camacho, Michael Canice Litulumar Camacho, Jimin Kwon, David Rui Li, Francel Lumanlan, Christopher Adam L. Mafnas, Ariel Sumiishi Morales, Chelsea Taylor Palacios Olouachel, Kiana Lei Manglona Propst, Vidal Jose Borja Sablan, Haani Skylar Tomokane Seman, Margarita Leighanna Sanchez Terlaje, Jennalyn Rose Travilla, Kaia De Jesus Travilla, and Gayle Noreen Habaluyas Vidal

NMC is the CNMI's first postsecondary institution and has conferred thousands of undergraduates who are active participants in the CNMI's workforce and leaders in the local community. Through the college's commitment to student learning, high-quality education, and affordable tuition, many of Mount Carmel School's AlumKnights have chosen NMC as their starting point in their next academic journey.

Morales, who has expressed an interest in media and graphic design, said, "I chose NMC because I'm familiar with the campus, my community, and the environment. It is also convenient for me since I can gain a college degree after two years without having to pay out-of-state tuition."

While undecided about her major, Travilla said, " I chose NMC because I feel like it's the smartest choice to make for me. I'm young and know I need more experience to have a better idea about what I want to pursue as a career; that's why it made sense that I would stay on the island, gain more experience, and work with my [advisers] to have a clearer sense of what I want to do after earning my associate degree. 'Til then, I will be able to save money while still being near my family and some friends."

Propst, who is an aspiring veterinarian, said that despite not having a specific major in veterinary medicine at NMC, they recognize that the college does offer pre-requisite courses they'll need to fulfill in order to transfer to a university abroad.

"Starting here at NMC allows me to stay close to friends and family while I finish my pre-requisite courses in order to pursue further my dream of becoming a veterinarian. I believe that starting here will let me form the connections I need in order to return and help the animals here in the Marianas," Propst said.

Set on the engineering field, Terlaje expressed her confidence in the college to fulfill her academic and career goals on the island.

"I chose NMC because I am confident in its capability to educate, guide its students and community to accomplishing their educational goals, and provide students with resources to afford their dream. It also helps that programs are being added such as an associate degree in liberal arts with an emphasis in pre-engineering, which is my field of interest. Additionally, I'll be able to receive quality accredited education in the comfort of home," Terlaje said.

Despite the impact of Super Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the COVID-19 pandemic, MCS continues to strengthen its college preparatory program in order to support its graduate's academic and professional endeavors. In addition to rigorous academic programs, MCS prioritizes its student's access to varying extra-curricular activities, apostolic programs, and community service opportunities.

For more information about Mount Carmel School and its college preparatory programs, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

DPS Boating Safety responds to distressed vessel off Tinian

On Thursday, July 14, 2022, at around 2:50 pm, Boating Safety Section of the Department of Public Safety received a call reporting a distressed vessel near Dump Cove, just west of Tinian.

At around 3:03pm, Zodiac 3 departed from the Smiling Cove Marina and headed toward the distressed vessel. At 3:37pm, Zodiac 3 arrived at the vessel, established a tow, and headed back toward the marina. All occupants of the vessel stated they were okay and did not need medical attention. At around 3:42pm, Zodiac 3 arrived at the marina with the distressed vessel. The vessel was boarded upon rescue and received a no violation citation.

According to the crew of the vessel, they departed Guam around 4:30am and made their way toward Saipan. As they made their way to the west of Tinian they heard one of the engines make a sputtering sound before it died out. They started up their vessel but it would not reach 2,000 RPM. They notified their contact on Saipan, who called the DPS Boating Safety for assistance.

"We encourage boaters to notify friends and/or family members about your fishing route or what area you plan to be fishing and what time you expect to return. If you are having troubles out in the water call in to Channel 16 on your VHF radio when you need help, or if you would like to report a distressed vessel," said a DPS news release of the incident. ***(PR)***

NMI small biz owners learn ABCs of how to become HUBZone-certified

More small business owners in the CNMI are now knowledgeable about securing federal contracts, thanks to a HUBZone certification training course conducted by the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College.

HUBZone is a program administered by the U.S. Small Business Association that helps small businesses in historically underutilized business zones secure federal contracts. HUBZone-certified businesses also get a 10% price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions.

HUBZones are located all over the United States and its territories such as the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico. Currently, there are 14 HUBZone-certified businesses in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants listen during the HUBZone certification course hosted by the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College. The course was taught by Guam Small Business Administration branch manager Kenneth Lujan.

The training, which was conducted by Guam Small Business Administration branch manager Kenneth Lujan, focused on the application process and the eligibility requirements for the program.

Participant Vincent Aldan of Marianas Building Inspection and Consulting Services said that the training was very informative.

"The HUBZone training helped me in understanding the process in being able to provide services to the federal and local governments," Aldan said. "I hope to become HUBZone-certified as it will give my business the competitive edge when it comes to federal contracts for projects that fall within my industry."

To register for free one-on-one counseling by the CNMI SBDC, register at marianas.ecenterdirect.com, email mercilynn.palec@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6888. ***(PR)***

Workshop on recovering from cyber disruptions

The Federal Emergency Management Agency held a workshop last July 19 that taught participants from Homeland Security and Emergency Management how to identify solutions for managing the consequences of a cyber disruption affecting critical systems and services.

The 2022 CNMI Cyber Disruption Consequence Management Workshop at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort discussed critical infrastructure continuity and impact management, promoting a society-wide approach to cyber resilience, and addressed interdependencies between information technology, law enforcement, emergency management, and the private sector. The day included scenarios featuring cyber incidents that have affected critical services across the CNMI, with the aim of identifying gaps in the current plan and proposing the discovery of potential solutions. The day consisted of a combination of plenary and small-group discussions and activities strengthening relationships with response partners along with members of the whole community.

The exercise was completed successfully, demonstrating the crucial importance of information-sharing in responding to cyber attacks and the value of establishing and using a pre-crisis information sharing process on a regular basis. Ensuring that cybersecurity in the financial services industry is an iterative process, FEMA and its members will continue to analyze feedback from the exercises and implement follow-up recommendations to continually improve sector response. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Uvalde shooting report finds 'systemic failures.' Use it to prevent future attacks

Just when we thought details surrounding the Uvalde shooting couldn't get worse, they have. Between the nearly 80-page report the Texas House's investigative committee released and the latest bodycam video Uvalde's mayor made public, the fullest account we have yet of that fateful day is nothing short of horrific.

The report and video unveil details that piece together the tragic events of May 24, when a gunman killed 21 people, in a way that is more comprehensive, but just as infuriating—if not more so—than before.

From open doors and a gunman whom friends referred to as "school shooter," to thousands of dollars spent on gun and ammo purchases, to failed law enforcement at every turn, the gunman could have been stopped but was not, creating a perfect storm of chaos and death.

Approximately 376 law enforcement officials ultimately converged at the school that day, including nearly 150 U.S. Border Patrol agents and 91 state police officials. Yet still, the gunman was not confronted until well over an hour after he arrived at the school and killed 19 students and two teachers.

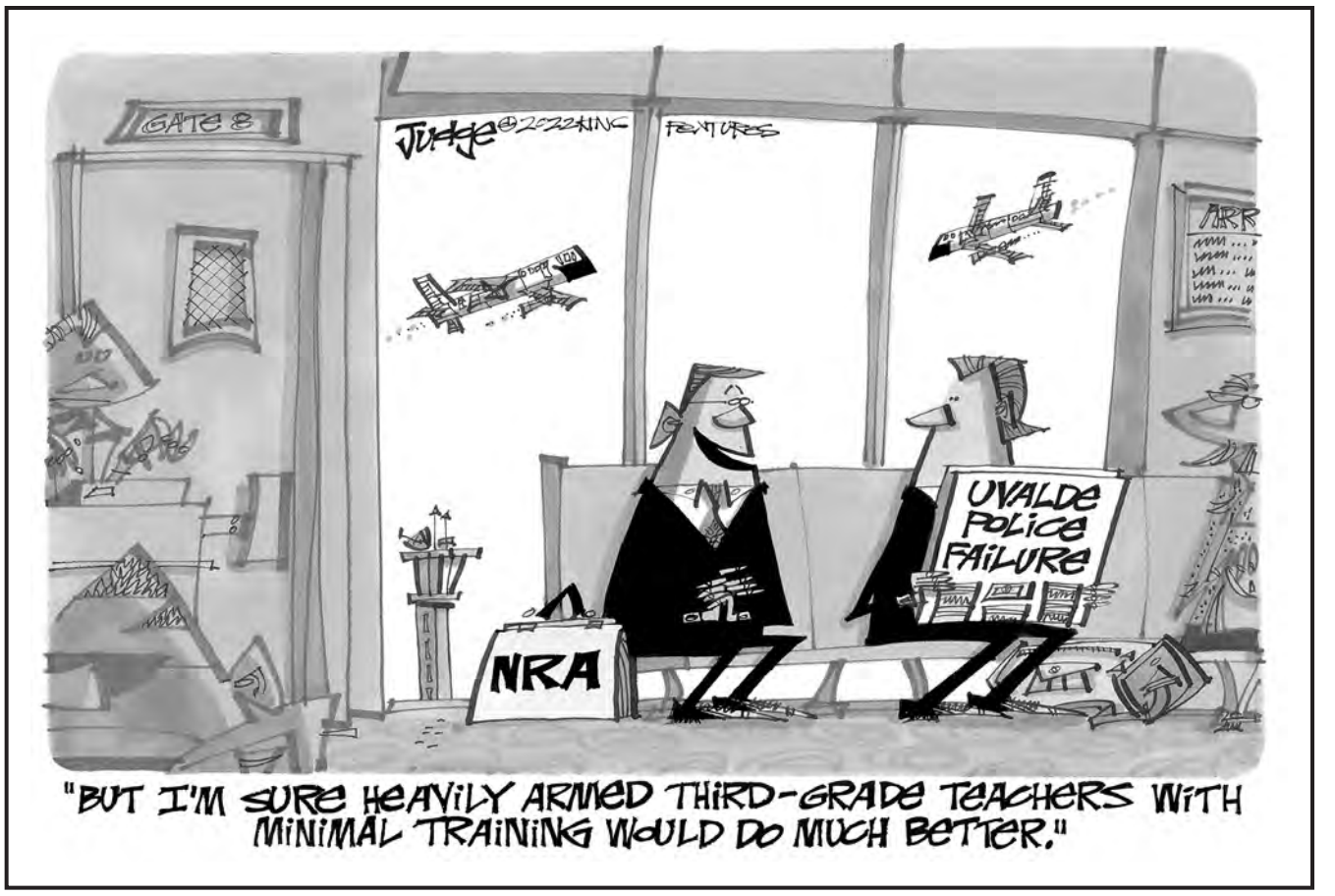
One of the reasons the gunman was not stopped sooner was that no one really took command, which resulted in "egregiously poor" decision-making among the hundreds of law enforcement personnel there. The report noted their lack of urgency and bravery, too. "At Robb Elementary, law enforcement responders failed to adhere to their active shooter training, and they failed to prioritize saving innocent lives over their own safety," the report said.

The body camera of one of the officers revealed a crucial piece of this puzzle that had been missing until now. The video from Sgt. Daniel Coronado shows him telling dispatch he believes the gunman has barricaded himself inside an office, not a classroom. It's not clear how he came to this false conclusion but it seems to be part of why officers were not in a rush to break down the door.

Finally, more bodycam footage captures the moment officers learn via 911 dispatch that the gunman is inside the classroom with "a room full of victims." One of the wounded children had actually called 911 from inside the room. Still, there was no rush to descend on the gunman.

Pete Arredondo, chief of the Uvalde school district police, lacked focus on the bigger picture: saving lives. He obsessively tries to enter the room with a set of keys and for some bizarre reason, he continues to plead with the gunman. "Sir, if you can hear me, please put your firearm down, sir," he says. Arredondo's earnest, but wholly misguided, search

See UVALDE on Next Page


GATE 8
Judge ©2022KING FEATURES
NRA
UVALDE POLICE FAILURE
"BUT I'M SURE HEAVILY ARMED THIRD-GRADE TEACHERS WITH MINIMAL TRAINING WOULD DO MUCH BETTER."

Minimalism is about more than downsizing. It's about living with intention

By CHRISTINE PLATT
Los Angeles Times

Christine Platt is an activist and author, most recently, of The Afrominimalist's Guide to Living With Less. *@afrominimalist*

Every so often, I smile as I reflect on the random Saturday morning when I found myself faced with a common clutter conundrum: Do I need more baskets and bins? I had to laugh as I asked myself: Are you really about to buy more stuff to hide all the stuff you don't even use?

That was the day I first acknowledged that storing things, OK, hiding things, so they'd be out of sight and out of mind wasn't a solution to my overconsumption. It was time for a change. It was time for me to change. Every online search that day centered on how to live with less stuff, and they all yielded the same results: become a minimalist.

If there were a contest for the woman least likely to succeed as a minimalist, I surely would have won. Much like my piles of clothing, home goods and knickknacks, the odds were stacked against me.

I'd spent much of my young adulthood and early career engaged in consumerism's most popular sport: bargain shopping. And I wasn't just any ol' bargain shopper—I was really good at it. The years I'd spent running to the mall and circling sales racks resulted in a wardrobe overflowing with designer clothing and shoes that I rarely wore and smaller handbags nested inside of larger tote bags that I rarely used.

The sales tags attached to many of these items were reminders that I was in love with the thrill of the hunt and not the things themselves. But the most damning evidence was my less than impressive bank account. A sobering reality that quickly shifted my perspective from becoming a minimalist by choice to minimalist by necessity.

Still, the question loomed: Could I really let go of my possessions and learn to live with less?

And given my affinity for bright colors, patterns and textures, could I embrace minimalism? Based on Pinterest and Instagram's most-loved minimalist photos, my idea of the perfect decor was the antithesis of hygge. And being a Black woman? Let's just say minimalism sure seemed white, literally and figuratively.

That same day, I decided to take inventory to see just how much stuff I owned. I counted 31 pairs of heels, even though I mostly wore flats. I had 53 pairs of jeans, even though I regularly wore the same two to three pairs. Workwear yielded 64 dresses yet I couldn't remember the last time I'd worn any of them.

I was unprepared for the reality of my overconsumption and how I would feel once I confronted it. Not a single article or blog post prepared me for the emotions that would arise as part of the process. How come no one forewarned I'd feel guilty about how much money I'd wasted? I shed many tears before realizing that I had to forgive myself for my overshopping and overspending if I wanted to move forward. I'd never recoup what I'd spent. But I could change my habits.

Forgiving myself allowed me to approach decluttering more objectively. When considering whether to keep or donate an item, I asked myself: Do I need, use and love this? The item had to meet all three criteria or I'd let it go. I discovered that the same "need, use, love" philosophy I used for decluttering was also a useful framework for how to pay it forward with my donations. What person or organization would need, use and love the things that no longer served me? Soon, I had less stuff and more time and space for what mattered most.

Many people think minimalism is predominately white and only for the wealthy. But minimalism isn't just about expensive furnishings and isn't just a "white thing." The homes of minimalists are as diverse as the individuals and families themselves. I call myself the "Afrominimalist"—a Black woman redefining and reimagining minimalism for herself—but there are many people in marginalized communities who are benefiting from being more conscious consumers. And these benefits go beyond having a tidy home.

Our lifestyle choices have the power to bring about individual and collective change to our mental health and well-being. To build generational wealth. And to make a difference in the world future generations will inherit. Living more consciously has allowed me to regain control of my finances as well as my sanity. I have also learned to live more sustainably, which benefits me and the environment.

Being less wasteful is a choice that has immediate and lasting impact. Another benefit of minimalism is learning to live with intention. The practice of being intentional about what you keep in your home teaches you to be intentional about every area of your life.

It's been six years since that fateful Saturday when I decided to live with less, and I have no regrets. In addition to downsizing, I've learned to help others take control of their consumption. The goal isn't just to become a minimalist; it's to become a more conscious consumer. Living with less is an opportunity to discover value in who we are, not in what we have.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Webb telescope photos are a welcome antidote to the grim facts of today

By CHRISTOPHER COKINOS
Los Angeles Times

Christopher Cokinos is a poet and writer living in Salt Lake City. He writes frequently for Astronomy.com and is working on a book about the moon.

Facts these days seem so grim. They feel like storm clouds: all too real and ready to bring more lightning than much-needed rain.

A congressional committee is establishing the pattern of facts around the attempted coup on Jan. 6, 2021, and the "Big Lie" that the presidential election was stolen. The death tolls from endless mass shootings. Reports of hunger, war and democracies threatened.

Why wouldn't we all be scared, spooked and exhausted?

But last week we got a reminder of other kinds of facts, the kind that bring us awe and comfort and context—even joy. The kinds of facts that prompt scientists to break down in tears: facts—made sublime through imagery—of the cosmos itself. Last week we saw the first images from a new space telescope.

Those images and the facts they embody also matter; they are the antidote to the others.

Even a few minutes spent gaping at the mountain range of gas and dust now dubbed the Cosmic Cliff or the crazy-bright heart of a distant galaxy lit by hot gases devoured by a black hole isn't trivial.

And the longer we look, the better things get.

The James Webb Space Telescope (ah, grim fact: It's named for a homophobic former NASA administrator) offered us infrared views of ancient galaxies swirling like sea creatures around the whirlpool of a gravitational lens. It focused on a foreground galaxy so massive and perfectly placed in our line of sight that it distorts and magnifies distant light. Look at that "deep field" and you can stare back 13 billion years. It showed us a planetary nebula—around a pair of dying stars in the Southern Ring Nebula—surrounded by its puffed-off dust and gases in such crenulated detail that its brown cloud looks almost like the grain of wood.

It's all the stuff of wonder. And wonder, like democracy, like the climate, like our safety, is in a pretty precarious place right now.

If we need political and social facts to undergird our approach to a better future—and we do—we also need science to keep gifting us with facts that allow us to experience wonder. Without the wonder that comes from discovery, we become enmeshed in the very machinery that produces what ails us. Wonder reminds us of our better selves and that we live in the neighborhood of things that abide, like star clusters and a nebula. We belong to the infinite universe.

Astronomy largely asks little of us (though some Indigenous communities fighting to keep sacred mountains free of observatories necessarily disagree). Yes, the latest space telescope cost $10 billion (less than an aircraft carrier). But if we spend some of our tax dollars to unlock secrets and vistas, that cost also keeps us rooted in the astonishment of the more-than-human. We learn for the sake of learning—which is, in fact, noble—and we gain more than knowledge published in peer-reviewed journals.

Facts establish. They can also deepen. The Webb will probe deeper into the origins of the big bang than ever before. It will help us understand the placement and motions of galaxies so we can grasp the evolution of the universe. If that's too abstract, it also will scan alien worlds for signs that the conditions for life as we know it exist elsewhere. It might even find that life. What more profound discovery could there be?

The wonder that we feel looking at these new images can be more than a moment of eye-candy. It provides, if we let it, the peace of cosmic things, a way to connect through beauty and understanding. When our eyes meet the universe we are lifted out of ourselves like a breath, and, then breathing back in, we can be renewed for what comes next.

Dobbs isn't the first time the Supreme Court took away key rights

By CHRISTOPHER M. RICHARDSON
Los Angeles Times

Christopher M. Richardson is a former U.S. diplomat and co-author of Historical Dictionary of the Civil Rights Movement.

After the Dobbs decision ended federal protections for abortion, some high-profile responses suggested the ruling marked the first time the Supreme Court rescinded an established fundamental right.

But that is not true for Black Americans. They did gain, then lose, basic rights at the hands of the Supreme Court. It would take decades to get even some of those rights back. Understanding that history may well be key to helping America face another daunting chapter of rights granted then denied.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, during Reconstruction, the United States enacted a series of laws to uplift the close to 4 million formerly enslaved people. The 14th Amendment provided for equal protection under the law and the 15th Amendment granted Black men the right to vote. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1875 that prohibited race discrimination in public accommodations. Black and some white elected officials worked together to secure equality through state and local laws across the South.

Just as these coalitions began to foster change, white Americans in the South began a violent campaign in the late 1860s that overthrew biracial governments, seized power for white Democrats and flouted federal laws related to protecting the rights of Black people.

During the early days of Reconstruction, many of the wealthy white Southerners who were able to seize power adopted what was known as a "cooperationist" approach. They claimed that their violence was intended to end alleged corruption among Black politicians and promised that any restrictions they imposed on Black rights would be limited. But that supposedly moderate view gave way to extreme measures seeking to end all Black participation in political and social life equal to that of white people.

Ultimately, that extremism was empowered by the Supreme Court.

Instead of buttressing newly won rights for Black Americans, the conservative court effectively ended them. In 1876, the court ruled that the 15th Amendment did not grant any individual the right to vote. In a consolidation of five decisions known as the "Civil Rights Cases," the court in 1883 struck down the 1875 Civil Rights Act and held that the 13th and 14th Amendments did not give Congress the power to outlaw private acts of racial discrimination. Rather, the court reasoned, Black people needed to look to the states for protection. In 1896, the court would endorse outright segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson.

The effect of this era on Black political representation is undeniable. In 1870, Alonzo J. Ransier—one of the first Black congressmen from South Carolina—became the state's first elected Black lieutenant governor. As a high-level elected official, he helped secure educational, voting and civil rights for formerly enslaved people. By the time Ransier died in 1882, he was a forgotten street cleaner and most of those hard-earned rights were gone.

The period immediately after the Civil War would see more than a thousand Black elected officials and several Black members of Congress. Yet by 1901, there were no Black members of Congress.

The parallels with abortion rights today are clear: A decades-long assault on previously established rights eroded them to nothing, supported by a conservative Supreme Court.

Black citizens' rights would only be regained more than 50 years after the Plessy decision, when amid the civil rights movement the Supreme Court ruled segregation to be unconstitutional in Brown v. Board of Education, and Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

However, the Black Reconstruction experience suffered from two hurdles that the abortion rights movement may be able to overcome.

First, the Supreme Court's action on civil rights was met by exhaustion and indifference by white moderates in the 1880s, who effectively gave up after 20 years of attempting to secure Black rights against reactionary white Southerners. That does not have to be the case today. A majority of Americans support at least some abortion access, even in most red states. This level of public support should buttress attempts in Congress to codify Roe v. Wade. Even if such legislation fails, the effort may avert a loss of interest in the cause and keep it top of mind for a sympathetic public.

Civil rights during and after Reconstruction also faced the hurdle of voter suppression. Paramilitary groups and extremists including the Ku Klux Klan kept Black voters away from the polls. In contrast, while some antiabortion activists have used violence, abortion rights supporters are not systematically disenfranchised as a group. They should use their political power in anti-abortion states to elect representatives who are committed to protecting reproductive choice.

The Supreme Court held that the Dobbs decision focused on abortion and no other rights. Black history with Reconstruction suggests otherwise—and looks to be predictive. Emboldened by the attacks on abortion rights, several conservative politicians have voiced support for a national abortion ban, limits on contraception, recriminalizing gay sex and banning same-sex marriage once more.

All Americans who view an expansion of rights as critical to our republic would be wise to ignore voices feigning moderation from the other side. Reconstruction teaches us that when extremist movements tell you where they are headed, you should believe them. America should not go backwards on rights yet again.

UVALDE

From Page 8

for proper keys and his willingness to attempt a negotiation with a ruthless killer as children lay dying cost time and lives.

The report detailed even more information about the gunman's personality, character, and methodical acquisition of firearms that fit the profile of an angry, motivated, killer. Hindsight is 20/20 but a few family members and friends seemed to be fully aware he was unhealthy and even dangerous. He was angry, a bully, and even had the nickname "school shooter." He had more than 100 absences each school year beginning in 2018, had only a ninth grade education at age 17, and had fallen out with both his mother and father.

We must figure out how, in the future, information like this that might seem piecemeal to one person, but together could unveil a full picture of potentially dangerous behavior for a juvenile or young adult with no record, can be reported to authorities in a way that's helpful. As for his firearm purchases, the law only requires reporting the purchase of multiple handguns in a short time to the police. The gunman bought AR-15-style rifles—so they were not reported. The people who sold him his guns even noted his odd dress and behavior. This loophole must be closed.

A new school year begins in Texas soon. Going forward, school districts and lawmakers must ask themselves: How much public money is spent writing disaster plans that aren't followed? Turns out, Uvalde had one but no one executed it. If we need them, and one would think we do, how can we ensure they are followed in a commonsense manner, knowing real life doesn't follow black and white emergency plans?

Local districts need to review their security plans, including keeping school doors locked. Going forward, as tedious as it may be, schools should strive to have one access point and harden their entrances with as much security as possible.

School districts should also strengthen their relationships with police and review together: Who does what in a crisis? If the school has its own police force, how will they coordinate with other police agencies? Perhaps there should be meetings between school boards and city councils—with this report in hand as a litmus test —to review security procedures.

As nauseating as the report and bodycam videos are, we must continue to learn what we can from that day so we don't repeat the same mistakes.

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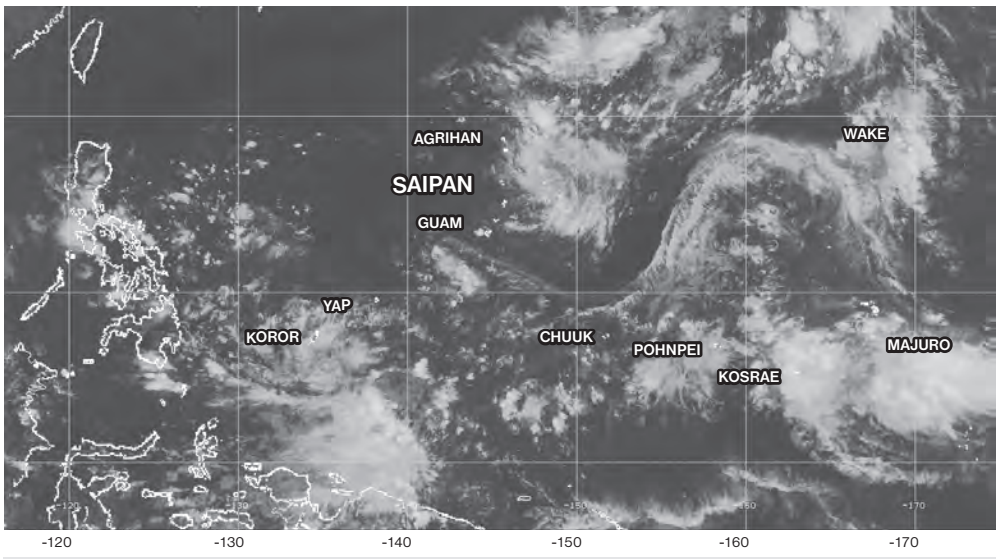
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before noon, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

ASCAT analysis shows a broad trough across Guam and Rota, while satellite shows a few pop-up showers in southern Guam waters along with a line of showers north of Saipan. Buoys show seas between 2 and 4 feet with a primary east component.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	83° / 74°
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 77°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Cloudy	83° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:00 AM	12:44 PM	-
Friday	12:37 AM	1:34 PM	-
Saturday	1:17 AM	2:25 PM	-
Sunday	1:58 AM	3:17 PM	-
Monday	2:43 AM	4:09 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	57° / 44°
Beijing	Sunny	95° / 74°
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 74°
London	Cloudy	76° / 60°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	86° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Melbourne	Sunny	59° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	95° / 79°
Osaka	Showers	85° / 77°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	85° / 65°
Busan	Rain	81° / 74°
Rome	Sunny	97° / 74°
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	92° / 75°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 52°
Seoul	Showers	87° / 71°
Tokyo	Showers	86° / 76°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	95° / 78°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:31 AM	High Tide	2.04
8:37 AM	Low Tide	0.67
2:42 PM	High Tide	1.55
7:56 PM	Low Tide	1.06

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	3, 4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	3, 4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	1, 2, 3, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

US disrupts North Korean hackers that targeted hospitals

NEW YORK (AP)—The FBI and Justice Department recently disrupted the activities of a hacking group that was sponsored by the North Korean government and that targeted U.S. hospitals with ransomware, ultimately recovering half a million dollars in ransom payments and cryptocurrency, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said Tuesday.

Monaco revealed new details of the attacks during a speech in which she encouraged organizations hit by ransomware to report the crime to law enforcement, both so that officials can investigate and so that they can help victim companies try to get ransom payments back.

In this case, Monaco said, a Kansas hospital that paid a ransom last year after being attacked by ransomware also contacted the FBI, which traced the payment and identified China-based money launderers who assisted the North Korean hackers in cashing out the illicit proceeds. The FBI was able to recover half a million dollars, including the entire ransom payment from the hospital.

"If you report that attack, if you report the ransom demand and payment, if you work with the FBI, we can take action," Monaco said at the International Conference on Cyber Security, hosted by Fordham University. "We can follow the money and get it back; we can help prevent the next attack, the next victim; and we can hold cybercriminals accountable."

U.S. officials in 2021 scrambled to confront a wave of high-profile ransomware attacks—in which hackers encrypt or lock up a victim's data and demand exorbitant sums to return it—including against a crucial fuel pipeline on the East Coast. Though the pace of such large-scale, front-page attacks seems to have slowed, smaller targets—such as hospitals—continue to be affected.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said at the same conference that a particular challenge is that ransomware, once largely the province of garden-variety cyber criminals looking to extort cash, is now being increasingly deployed by hostile governments who are eager for destruction.

"The other thing we're seeing more and more of is ransomware actors doing more than just locking up the system," Wray said. "They're exfiltrating the information, they're threatening to release your proprietary information."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Delta continues plane-buying spree, orders 12 Airbus jets

ATLANTA (AP)—One day after placing a big order with Boeing, Delta Air Lines said Tuesday it has ordered 12 more jets from Airbus, Boeing's European rival. Delta converted previous options for the Airbus A220 into firm orders that will be delivered starting in 2026. The deal was announced at the Farnborough International Airshow near London. The A220, developed by Canada's Bombardier, has up to 130 seats and is bigger than a regional jet but smaller than the Boeing 737 Max. Delta announced Monday that it will buy 100 copies of the largest Max version, which is still awaiting certification by U.S. safety regulators. It was Delta's first order with U.S.-based Boeing since 2011. Delta did not disclose terms of either order. The Boeing jets would be worth $13.5 billion and the Airbus order more than $1 billion at list prices, although airlines get deep discounts.

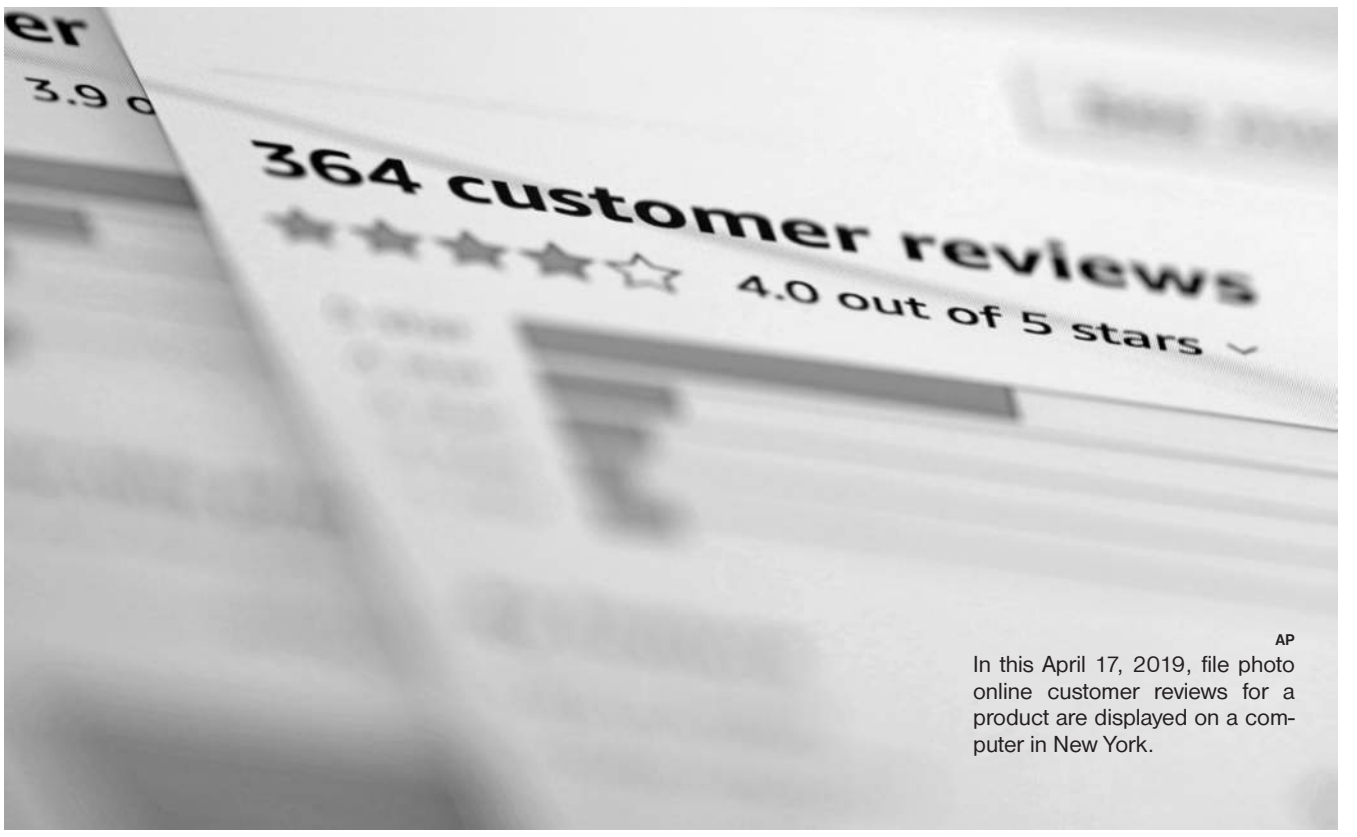
Deal for $5.5B Hyundai plant in Georgia nears final approval

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—The local economic development agency that worked with Georgia officials in recruiting Hyundai Motor Group to build a $5.5 billion electric car plant near Savannah approved its portions of the deal Tuesday, though details of tax breaks and other incentives have yet to be disclosed. The joint development authority that voted to enter the deal represents four southeast Georgia counties that will give up hundreds of millions in taxes in exchange for at least 8,100 jobs Hyundai has promised to create. Officials said they won't release details of the incentives package until the state and Hyundai finalize the deal, possibly later this week. "I think it's very fair, I think it's very equitable," Trip Tollison, who heads the Savannah Economic Development Authority, said of the deal. "I think it represents what the region needs to make the company—the folks moving here with all the jobs—successful."

US health insurers raise rates to match increase in usage

SACRAMENTO, California (AP)—After putting off routine health care for much of the pandemic, Americans are now returning to doctors' offices in big numbers—a trend that's starting to show up in higher insurance rates across the country. Health insurers in individual marketplaces across 13 states and Washington D.C. will raise rates an average of 10% next year, according to a review of rate filings by the Kaiser Family Foundation. That's a big increase after premiums remained virtually flat for several years during the pandemic as insurers seek to recoup costs for more people using their policies, combined with record-high inflation that is driving up prices for virtually everything, including health care. The rates review included Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington.

Amazon sues admins of 10K Facebook groups over fake reviews



AP

In this April 17, 2019, file photo online customer reviews for a product are displayed on a computer in New York.

By HALELUYA HADERO
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Amazon has filed a lawsuit against administrators of more than 10,000 Facebook groups it accuses of coordinating fake reviews in exchange for money or free products.

The Seattle-based e-commerce giant said in a statement posted on its website Tuesday the Facebook groups were set up to recruit people "willing to post incentivized and misleading reviews" across its stores in the U.S. the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Japan.

The problem over phony reviews is not new for Amazon, or e-commerce as a whole. Amazon itself has previously sued people it said were offering fake testimonials, though lawmakers and regulators have questioned whether the company was doing enough to combat the issue. Last year, U.K. competition regulators launched a probe into whether the online retailer and Google were taking adequate actions to protect shoppers.

In the statement, Amazon said one of the Facebook groups it's targeting, called "Amazon Product Review," had more than 43,000 members. The company said Facebook removed the group this year, but it was able to dodge the platform's detection by "changing letters in phrases that might set off Facebook's alarms."

Amazon noted since 2020, it has reported more than 10,000 fake review groups to Meta, the parent company of Facebook. Meta has removed half of these groups and is investigating the others, Amazon said.

The retailer's announcement comes as another side of the company's operations is facing more scrutiny. On Tuesday, federal labor officials confirmed to the AP the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has opened inspections at Amazon facilities in New York, Illinois, and Florida after receiving referrals alleging safety and health violations from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Twitter-Musk takeover dispute heading for an October trial

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

Tesla CEO Elon Musk lost his fight to delay Twitter's lawsuit against him as a Delaware judge on Tuesday set an October trial, citing the "cloud of uncertainty" over the social media company after the billionaire backed out of a deal to buy it.

"Delay threatens irreparable harm," said Chancellor Kathaleen St. Jude McCormick, the head judge of Delaware's Court of Chancery, which handles many high-profile business disputes. "The longer the delay, the greater the risk."

Twitter had asked for an expedited trial in September, while Musk's team called for waiting until early next year because of the complexity of the case. McCormick said Musk's team underestimated the Delaware court's ability to "quickly process complex litigation."

Musk

Twitter is trying to force the billionaire to make good on his April promise to buy the social media giant for $44 billion—and the company wants it to happen quickly because it says the ongoing dispute is harming its business.

"It's a very favorable ruling for Twitter in terms of moving things along," said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond. "She seemed very concerned about the argument that delay would seriously harm the company, and I think that's true."

Musk, the world's richest man, pledged to pay $54.20 a share for Twitter, but informed the company in July that he wants to back out of the agreement.

"It's attempted sabotage. He's doing his best to run Twitter down," said attorney William Savitt, representing Twitter before McCormick on Tuesday. The hearing was held virtually after McCormick said she tested positive for COVID-19.

Musk has claimed the company has failed to provide adequate information about the number of fake, or "spam bot," Twitter accounts, and that it has breached its obligations under the deal by firing top managers and laying off a significant number of employees. Musk's team expects more information about the bot numbers to be revealed in the trial court discovery process, when both sides must hand over evidence.

Nation

House passes same-sex marriage bill in retort to high court

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. House overwhelmingly approved legislation Tuesday to protect same-sex and interracial marriages amid concerns that the Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade abortion access could jeopardize other rights criticized by many conservatives.

In a robust but lopsided debate, Democrats argued intensely and often personally in favor of enshrining marriage equality in federal law, while Republicans steered clear of openly rejecting gay marriage. Instead leading Republicans portrayed the bill as unnecessary amid other issues facing the nation.

Tuesday's election-year roll call, 267-157, was partly political strategy, forcing all House members, Republicans and Democrats, to go on the record. It also reflected the legislative branch pushing back against an aggressive court that has raised questions about revisiting other apparently settled U.S. laws.

Wary of political fallout, GOP leaders did not press their members to hold the party line against the bill, aides said. In all, 47 Republicans joined all Democrats in voting for passage.

"For me, this is personal," said Rep. Mondaire Jones, D-N.Y., who said he was among the openly gay members of the House.

"Imagine telling the next generation of Americans, my generation, we no longer have the right to marry who we love," he said. "Congress can't allow that to happen."

While the Respect for Marriage Act easily passed the House with a Democratic majority, it is likely to stall in the evenly split Senate, where most Republicans would probably join a filibuster to block it. It's one of several bills, including those enshrining abortion access, that Democrats are proposing to confront the court's conservative majority. Another bill, guaranteeing access to contraceptive services, is set for a vote later this week.

House GOP leaders split over the issue, with Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Whip Rep. Steve Scalise voting against the marriage rights bill, but the No. 3 Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York voting in favor.

In a notable silence, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell declined to express his view on the bill, leaving an open question over how strongly his party would fight it, if it should come up for a vote in the upper chamber.

Attacker mows down family with vehicle, kills 2 with shotgun

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—A man drove his vehicle into a family as they walked near Glacier National Park then got out and began shooting at them with a shotgun, killing one man and mortally wounding a toddler before one of the victims managed to kill the assailant after he ran out of ammunition, authorities said Tuesday.

Killed in the attack on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in northwestern Montana were David Siau, 39, of Syracuse, New York, and Siau's 18-month-old daughter, McKenzie.

The assailant, Derick Amos Madden, 37, had been in a prior relationship with the woman who killed him and had mental health issues, according to the Glacier County Sheriff's Office.

Madden drove his vehicle into the Siau family just before 9 p.m. Sunday as they walked along a roadway in the small town of East Glacier Park, hitting some of them before crashing into a tree, the sheriff's office said.

As members of the family tried to run, Madden shot and killed David Siau and mortally wounded McKenzie. The young girl was being held by her mother, Christy Siau, 40, who was shot and wounded.

After running out of ammunition, Madden used a knife to attack and critically wound Christina Siau, 30. But she fought back and fatally wounded Madden, who died at the scene, authorities said.

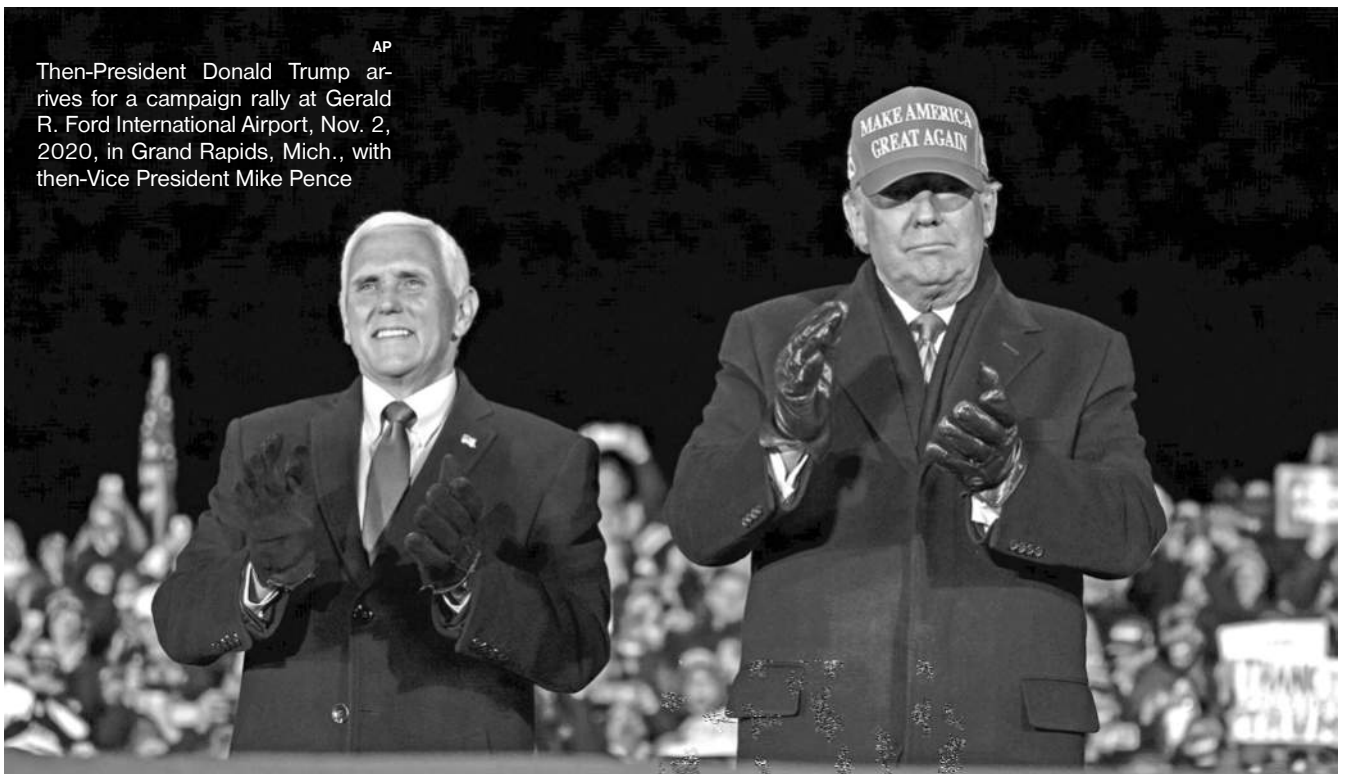
Two minor children who were present were able to run away and escaped injury.

McKenzie Siau was later pronounced dead at the Indian Health Service hospital in Browning. Christy and Christina Siau were flown to a hospital with critical injuries.

Authorities were still trying to determine if Madden, originally of Goldsby, Oklahoma, had the shotgun legally.

The sheriff's office described it as an "isolated... incident with a clear nexus between the victims and Madden" and said the investigation was continuing. It was not clear what provoked Sunday's attack beyond the prior relationship between Madden and Christina Siau.

Trump, Pence rivalry intensifies as they consider 2024 runs



AP

Then-President Donald Trump arrives for a campaign rally at Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Nov. 2, 2020, in Grand Rapids, Mich., with then-Vice President Mike Pence

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Vice President Mike Pence is becoming increasingly brazen in his willingness to counter former President Donald Trump.

The two will hold dueling rallies in Arizona on Friday as they stump for rival candidates who offer dramatically different visions of the Republican Paarty in a critical battleground state. Days later, they will once again cross paths as they deliver major speeches on the same day in Washington.

The encounters mark a more confrontational phase in the fraught relationship between the former running mates and once close confidantes who could soon find themselves competing against one another in the 2024 GOP presidential primary if they both ultimately choose to run.

"I think this is a continuation of the larger message that Pence is trying to embody here, which is the Republican Party should look to the future," said Scott Jennings, a longtime party strategist. "This is going to be the existential question for the Republican Party: Are we going to listen to a slightly different view than Donald Trump's? Right now, the standard-bearer for this is Mike Pence."

That description marks a striking turnaround for Pence, who spent his four years in the White House as Trump's most loyal defender. But Trump turned on his vice president when Pence refused to go along with his unconstitutional efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, putting Pence in the crosshairs of a violent mob on Jan. 6.

Now Pence, who has repeatedly defended his actions that day, is taking a more active effort to shape the future of the party. This week, Pence endorsed Karrin Taylor Robson in Arizona's Republican gubernatorial primary, pitting himself against Trump, who has endorsed Kari Lake, a former newscaster who has embraced Trump's election lies.

"As Arizona Democrats pursue the reckless Biden-Harris agenda, Karrin Taylor Robson is the only candidate for Governor that will keep Arizona's border secure and streets safe, empower parents and create great schools, and promote conservative values," Pence said in a statement announcing his decision.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hoover Dam transformer explodes; no one hurt

BOULDER CITY, Nev. (AP)—A transformer exploded Tuesday at Hoover Dam, one of the nation's largest hydroelectric facilities, producing a thick cloud of black smoke and flames that were quickly extinguished. No one was hurt in the explosion near the base of the dam, an engineering marvel on the Colorado River that straddles the border of Arizona and Nevada. Electricity produced at Hoover Dam continued flowing to the 8 million people in Arizona, Nevada and Southern California who rely on it, the Western Area Power Administration said. The cause of the fire was under investigation and officials were working to determine the extent of damage to the transformer, one of 15 at the complex that control the voltages for power sent to customers. "There is no risk to the power grid," said Jacklynn Gould, a regional director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The fire ignited around 10 a.m. and was out within a half-hour, Gould said in a statement. It captured the attention of tourists who said they heard an alarm sound and felt the ground rumble beneath them.

North Texas wildfire continues to grow amid high heat

A North Texas wildfire continued to grow Tuesday amid sweltering temperatures and dry conditions after burning at least a dozen structures, officials said. The Chalk Mountain Fire about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Fort Worth was the largest active Texas wildfire as of Tuesday afternoon after blackening 6,000 acres (2,400 hectares), an increase from 4,000 acres (1,600 hectares) Tuesday morning, the Texas A&M Forest Service said. The fire, which began Monday afternoon, was just 10% contained, and crews using bulldozers were digging containment lines while fire trucks and aircraft worked to extinguish the flames, the Forest Service said. Late Tuesday afternoon, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill ordered the mandatory evacuation of a rural area south of Tolar, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southwest of Fort Worth. It was not yet clear how many, if any, of the 12 structures lost as of Tuesday afternoon were residences or businesses, Forest Service spokeswoman Mary Leathers said. ***(AP)***

Teens charged after United Methodist Church leader is killed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy was charged Tuesday with murder in the fatal shooting of a pastor and leader of the United Methodist Church during a carjacking in Memphis, Tennessee. The Rev. Autura Eason-Williams was shot Monday afternoon outside of her home, the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church said. She was found in her driveway with multiple gunshot wounds, Memphis police said. Eason-Williams was taken to a hospital, where she died, police said on Twitter. At a news conference Tuesday, Memphis Police Director Cerelyn "CJ" Davis said three juveniles had been taken into custody as people of interest in what she called a "heinous killing." After the juveniles were questioned, a 15-year-old boy was charged with first-degree murder, murder in the perpetration of a robbery, especially aggravated robbery, carjacking and a weapons offense, Memphis police said late Tuesday

Asia

1 dead, 12 injured in Tianjin gas explosion in north China

AP
A fireman looks into the partially collapsed section of a building in China's Tianjin Municipality Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

BEIJING (AP)—One person has died in a gas explosion that injured 12 others at a six-story residential building in the Chinese port city of Tianjin, state media said Wednesday.

A trapped person who had been pulled out on Tuesday at 5:40 p.m., more than 10 hours after the morning blast, had weak vital signs and died after being taken to a hospital, according to a Tianjin Daily report posted by the Tianjin government on social media.

The search was continuing for three others who remained missing, the report said. The injuries to the other 12 are not life-threatening, it said.

The explosion occurred around 7:15 a.m. in the city's Beichen District. Photos of the scene showed upper stories of the building caved in with the roof still intact, but no obvious damage to neighboring units.

Tianjin, a major port and manufacturing hub, is less than an hour by high-speed train from Beijing and has long been one of China's most developed and international cities.

The cause of the explosion remains under investigation, but it appears to point to the deterioration of infrastructure following more than three decades of breakneck economic growth. The building was built in the 1980s, the Tianjin Daily reported.

China's Ministry of Emergency Management called for determining the cause as quickly as possible and a comprehensive screening to identify gas leak risks and prevent such accidents in the future, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Sri Lanka Parliament to choose president to lead past crisis

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's Parliament is voting by secret ballot Wednesday for a new president to lead the country out of the deep political, economic and humanitarian crisis that toppled the previous leader and has left simmering tensions in the island nation.

Prime Minister and Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been the face of the government's handling of the economic crisis, is facing a hefty challenge after late support swelled for his main rival. Dullas Alahapperuma, a former government minister and spokesman, was nominated by a breakaway faction of the ruling coalition, and ethnic minority parties also said they'll support him. Marxist party leader Anura Dissanayake was running.

The winner will serve the remainder of Gotabaya Rajapaksa's term that ends in 2024. Rajapaksa fled the country and resigned by email last week after protesters furious over the country's economic collapse stormed his official residence and took over key state buildings.

When sessions started in the morning, Secretary-General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake instructed lawmakers on the voting process and warned them that taking photos of their ballot or publicizing their vote is a breach of the constitution.

Presidents in Sri Lanka are normally elected by the public. The responsibility falls on Parliament only if the office of president becomes vacant before a term officially ends.

Amnesty Intl says Myanmar army has laid landmines in Kayah

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's military has laid landmines that have killed and injured people in and around villages in Kayah, a conflict-affected region near the border with Thailand, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

The human rights groups said its researchers who visited the region found that landmines laid around people's homes and churches have killed at least 20 people and maimed many other civilians.

The researchers interviewed villagers in an area where the army has been fighting ethnic Karenni armed groups after the military seized power from Myanmar's elected government in February 2021.

Various international agreements including the 1997 Ottawa Convention ban the use of antipersonnel mines with the intention of eliminating weapons that have killed and maimed thousands of people around the world, often long after hostilities have ended.

"The Myanmar military's use of landmines is abhorrent and cruel. At a time when the world has overwhelmingly banned these inherently indiscriminate weapons, the military has placed them in people's yards, homes, and even stairwells, as well as around a church," Matt Wells, Amnesty International's Crisis Response deputy director for thematic issues, said in a statement.

Amnesty's report said landmines have been deployed in at least 20 villages in Kayah. The report backed earlier allegations made by ethnic groups.

The Karenni Human Rights Group earlier this month also accused army forces of planting landmines in villages and settlements in Kayah state.

World

UK breaks record for highest temperature; Europe sizzles

LONDON (AP)—Britain shattered its record for highest temperature ever registered Tuesday amid a heat wave that has seared swaths of Europe, as the U.K.'s national weather forecaster said such highs are now a fact of life in a country ill-prepared for such extremes.

The typically temperate nation was just the latest to be walloped by unusually hot, dry weather that has triggered wildfires from Portugal to the Balkans and led to hundreds of heat-related deaths. Images of flames racing toward a French beach and Britons sweltering—even at the seaside—have driven home concerns about climate change.

The U.K. Met Office weather agency registered a provisional reading of 40.3 degrees Celsius (104.5 degrees Fahrenheit) at Coningsby in eastern England—breaking the record set just hours earlier. Before Tuesday, the highest temperature recorded in Britain was 38.7 C (101.7 F), set in 2019. By later afternoon, 29 places in the UK had broken the record.

As the nation watched with a combination of horror and fascination, Met Office chief scientist Stephen Belcher said such temperatures in Britain were "virtually impossible" without human-driven climate change.

He warned that "we could see temperatures like this every three years" without serious action on carbon emissions.

The sweltering weather has disrupted travel, health care and schools. Many homes, small businesses and even public buildings, including hospitals, in Britain don't have air conditioning, a reflection of how unusual such heat is in the country better known for rain and mild temperatures.

The intense heat since Monday has damaged the runway at London's Luton airport, forcing it to shut for several hours, and warped a main road in eastern England, leaving it looking like a "skatepark," police said. Major train stations were shut or near-empty Tuesday, as trains were canceled or ran at low speeds out of concern rails could buckle.

London faced what Mayor Sadiq Khan called a "huge surge" in fires because of the heat. The London Fire Brigade listed 10 major blazes it was fighting across the city Tuesday, half of them grass fires. Images showed several houses engulfed in flames as smoke billowed from burning fields in Wennington, a village on the eastern outskirts of London.

Russia pounds Ukraine as Putin gets Iran's backing

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian missiles struck cities and villages in eastern and southern Ukraine, hitting homes, a school and a community center on Tuesday as Russian President Vladimir Putin won strong support support from Iran for his country's military operation.

In Kramatorsk, a city in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province considered a likely Russian occupation target, one person was killed and 10 wounded in an airstrike that hit a five-story apartment building, regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Fresh blood stained the concrete amid green leaves that were torn off trees as nearby apartments on at least two floors burned. Shrapnel was placed in a small pile near an empty playground.

"There was no one here. Everything is ruined," said Halyna Maydannyk, a resident of one burned apartment. "Who knows why they're doing this? We were all living peacefully."

Kramatorsk residents Mykola Zavodovskyi and Tetiana Zavodovska stood in bandages outside a hospital. They heard a loud clap and went to their balcony to investigate, then everything exploded and the windows shattered.

"Probably it was a rocket, and probably it was brought down by Ukrainian forces," Zavodovska said.

The midday strike came after Kyrylenko had reported four earlier Russian strikes in Kramatorsk and urged civilians to evacuate.

On the political front, Putin visited Tehran, where Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said the West opposes an "independent and strong" Russia. Khamenei said that if Russia hadn't sent troops into Ukraine, it would have faced an attack from NATO, echoing Putin's own rhetoric and reflecting increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran as they both face severe Western sanctions. NATO allies have bolstered their military presence in Eastern Europe and provided Ukraine with weapons to help counter the Russian attack.

Greece: Hundreds evacuated as fire nears suburbs

DRAFI, Greece (AP)—Hundreds of people were evacuated from their homes late Tuesday as a wildfire threatened mountainside suburbs northeast of Athens. Firefighters battled through the night, struggling to contain the blaze which was being intensified by strong gusts of wind.

The Fire Service said 15 planes and nine helicopters were involved in the firefighting effort on the slopes of Mount Penteli, 25 kilometers (16 miles) northeast of Athens before being grounded at nightfall.

Police officers and firefighters carried elderly residents out of their homes to safety as the flames approached.

Huge clouds of smoke from the blaze was visible in central Athens.

Local officials said homes had been burned or damaged but there were no reports of injuries or stranded people. A children's hospital in the area was also evacuated, officials said.

Greece has been spared the heat wave conditions currently plaguing countries in western Europe, but fire officials say that hot and dry conditions persisting for weeks as well as longer term temperature rises have increased the overall risk of forest fires.

More than 1,300 square kilometers (500 square miles) of land was damaged by wildfires in Greece last year, the worst damage recorded since 2007.

Fire Service spokesman Yiannis Artopios said four separate evacuation orders had been issued Tuesday, with push alerts sent to mobile phones in the affected areas.

"Its's been a tough day," the spokesman said, adding that more than 400 firefighters had been deployed. Some 300 police officers were also on duty to enforce traffic bans and patrol evacuated areas to prevent looting, officials said.

Environment

Australia

losing animals, natural land as environment decays

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A five-year government report found Australia's environment continues to deteriorate due to climate change, resource extraction and other causes, prompting leaders on Tuesday to promise new laws and enforcement of them.

The State of the Environment report also adds political pressure on the government to set a more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target when Parliament resumes next week for the first time since May 21 elections.

The previous conservative government received the report in December but decided against making it public before the elections.

The center-left Labor Party won on pledges including greater action on climate change.

It wants a target to reduce emissions by 43% below 2005 by the end of the decade enshrined in law when Parliament sits on July 26.

Several unaligned lawmakers want a more ambitious target. Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said the report sent a "very strong message that we need to do better, but she rejected calls for deeper emission cuts.

"On the 43% target, we made a promise to the Australian people. We're going to keep the promise we made to the Australian people," Plibersek told the National Press Club.

She said she would introduce new environmental protection laws to Parliament next year and the government would create an agency to enforce them.

The government will also set a target of having 30% of Australia's land and surrounding sea declared protected areas. It wants to create an east Antarctic marine park.

"I am optimistic about the steps that we can take over the next three years. Legislating strong action on climate change is a great start," Plibersek said.

The wide-ranging report found the number of Australian species listed as threatened had increased by 8% since the 2016 report.

That number will increase substantially after wildfires in 2019 and 2020 destroyed vast tracts of southeast Australian forests, the report said.

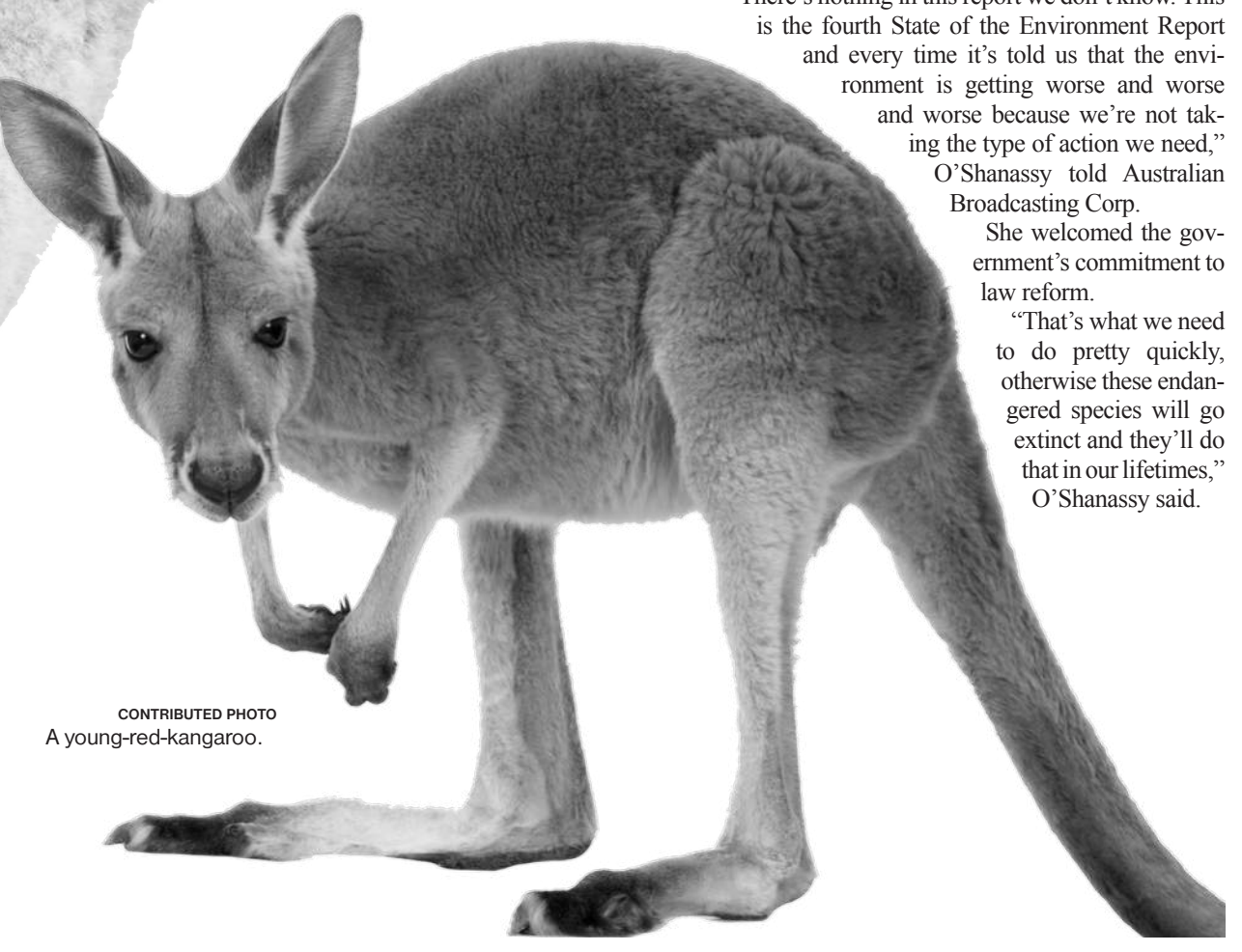
Kelly O'Shanassy, chief executive of the Australian Conservation Foundation, an environmental organization, said land clearing was the major cause of habitat loss.

"There's nothing in this report we don't know. This is the fourth State of the Environment Report and every time it's told us that the environment is getting worse and worse and worse because we're not taking the type of action we need," O'Shanassy told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

She welcomed the government's commitment to law reform.

"That's what we need to do pretty quickly, otherwise these endangered species will go extinct and they'll do that in our lifetimes," O'Shanassy said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A koala with her baby.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A young-red-kangaroo.

Life & Style

Childhood friendship begins breaking down for teenagers

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old daughter, "Nadia," has been friends with another girl, "Kelly," since they were 8. Over the years, I have had my concerns about Kelly because she lies. She can also be very manipulative, and she hasn't always treated Nadia well.

Nadia and I have had numerous conversations about this friend over the years, and I have expressed my feelings about Kelly's behavior. Sometimes Nadia would acknowledge Kelly's wrongdoings; other times she'd get upset and insist I was wrong. Either way, she seemed to have great loyalty to Kelly.

Over the years, Kelly's mother, "Brittany," and I became friends and, over the last two or three, we have grown very close. I allowed it to happen because I thought Kelly had matured. Unfortunately, I was wrong. Meanwhile, Nadia has been seeing more clearly what a difficult person Kelly is and is pulling away from her.

While I'm happy Nadia has found healthier friendships, I am worried about how this may affect my friendship with Brittany. She tends to be defensive about her kids and will probably not be able to see how much her daughter has hurt Nadia over the years. Advice?

MOM PROBLEM IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MOM: I do have some. STAY OUT OF IT. It's common for childhood friendships to wane. By now you should have realized friendships cannot be forced. All it does is breed resentment. Unless Brittany raises the subject, avoid discussing it. Cross your fingers and hope that Kelly might not even realize Nadia is less available. However, if Brittany asks, simply say that the girls' friendship, like other teen relationships, seems to have run its course.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband has been incarcerated off and on for the last several years. The kids adore him and want nothing more than to spend time with him, even though I am the responsible parent who cares for them and provides for their needs.

I'm glad the kids are not angry with him, and I'm trying to be understanding about their need for love and acceptance from him (even though they are no longer young children). However, I can't help feeling anxious, angry and jealous because, in spite of his many poor choices, they prefer spending time with him more than with me.

He has always been an irresponsible parent, and it crushes them each time he goes back to jail. No matter what, they run to his rescue whenever he needs something, be it money, transportation, etc. How can I handle this in the best way for the sake of my children without causing stress on them and our relationship?

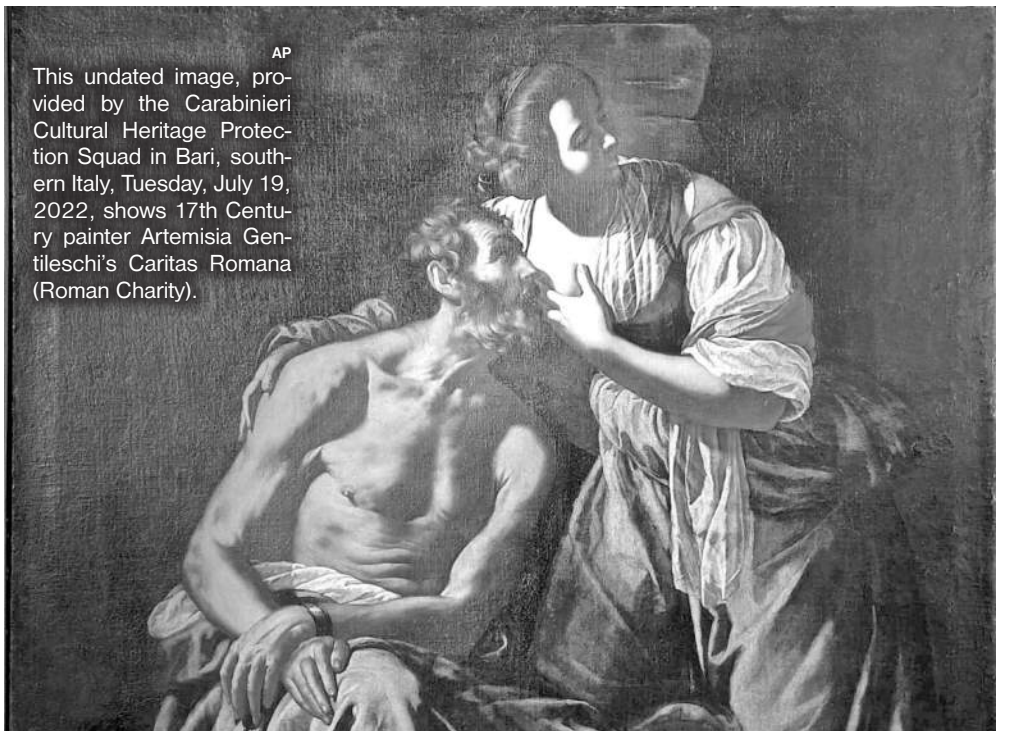
STABLE PARENT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PARENT: Please accept my sympathy. You have been forced into the role of the authoritarian parent, while your husband has adopted the role of loosey-goosey fun parent, which is how your children still regard him. It isn't fair, and I feel for you. But until they wise up on their own, there's nothing you can do about it. So try not to spend too much time dwelling on it. Live your life. When faced with a circumstance that's not likely to change soon, that's all anyone can do.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Italy thwarts the illegal auction abroad of Gentileschi painting

ROME (AP)—Italy's art squad police said Tuesday they have thwarted the potential illegal sale by a Vienna auction house of a 17th-century painting by Artemisia Gentileschi, a celebrated Baroque artist.



AP
This undated image, provided by the Carabinieri Cultural Heritage Protection Squad in Bari, southern Italy, Tuesday, July 19, 2022, shows 17th Century painter Artemisia Gentileschi's Caritas Romana (Roman Charity).

Carabinieri police said that art merchants had allegedly described the work as being painted by a follower of Gentileschi, and not the artist herself, to fraudulently obtain export permission from Italian authorities.

Gentileschi was unusual for achieving success as a female painter in the male-dominated art world of her time. She also is a symbol of courageous women for testifying, even while being tortured, against a man who raped her in her bedroom while she was a teen.

"The painting was on the verge of being auctioned," Carabinieri Lt. Col. Alfio Gullotta told Italian state TV in Bari, Italy, where the returned masterpiece, "Caritas Romana" (Roman Charity) was shown to reporters.

Gentileschi's early work, with strikingly dark sections of her canvases contrasting with her illuminated subjects, reflects influences by Baroque giant Caravaggio.

Several of her works offer a bloody vision of Biblical or mythological stories, many of them focused on the struggle of strong women. In some of her paintings, the subjects are women wielding knives, swords or spikes against men.

A criminal probe is in its early stages, said the Carabinieri, who began their investigation of the oil painting's movements in 2020.

Authorities said the artwork is worth at least 2 million euros (dollars). It was commissioned by a nobleman in Puglia in the mid-17th century.

Italian authorities said they suspect that the go-betweens, availing themselves of an intermediary based in Tuscany, aimed to have the painting sold abroad, and deliberately neglected to supply historic documentation about the work's real origins.

The specialized art squad includes police officers who regularly pore over auction catalogues and online offerings, on the lookout for descriptions or images of any artworks or antiquities that have either been stolen or risk being illegally exported from Italy.

5-letter word for fun? Hasbro, NYT create Wordle board game

By MARK PRATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The company that makes some of the world's most iconic board games including Scrabble, Monopoly, and Clue is developing a new one based on Wordle, the obsessively popular digital word-guessing game.

Hasbro Inc. and The New York Times — which purchased Wordle earlier this year — announced Thursday that Wordle: The Party Game will be available for purchase in North America in October, with preorders already being accepted.

"Since Wordle burst onto the scene, it's undoubtedly been a staple in social and pop culture vocabulary," Adam Biehl, Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based Hasbro's general manager of gaming said in a statement. "We're beyond thrilled to work with New York Times Games to bring our gaming worlds together and extend Wordle in new ways."

In the free online version, players get six tries to guess a five-letter word with only the previous guess providing clues.

The appeal is its ease of play. Start by typing in a five-letter word. If a square turns green, it's the right letter in the right place. If it turns yellow, the letter is in the word but in the incorrect spot. Gray squares mean the letters are not in that day's word.

AP
A Wordle game is seen on a mobile phone, Friday, July 15, 2022, in Boston.

The drawback is that it can only be played once per day.

The board game will give players the opportunity to play against others, and play as much as they want.

One player picks a random five-letter word, and the others try to guess it.

There will also be multiple play options, including classic, fast, timed, or teams, Hasbro and New York Times Games said.

Wordle was created by Josh Wardle, a Brooklyn software engineer. He originally made it for his partner, but released it to the public in October. On Nov. 1, only 90 people had played it. Within two months, that number had grown to 300,000 as the addictive phenomenon spread rapidly on social media.

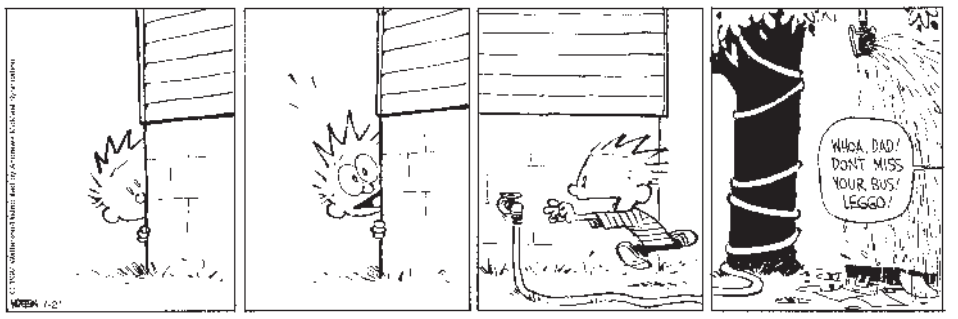
New York Times Games announced in January that it had purchased the game for an undisclosed price it described as the "low-seven figures," and it now has millions of players per day.

"Wordle truly brought us all together and that's what makes it so special," said Jonathan Knight, head of Games for The New York Times.

Pastimes

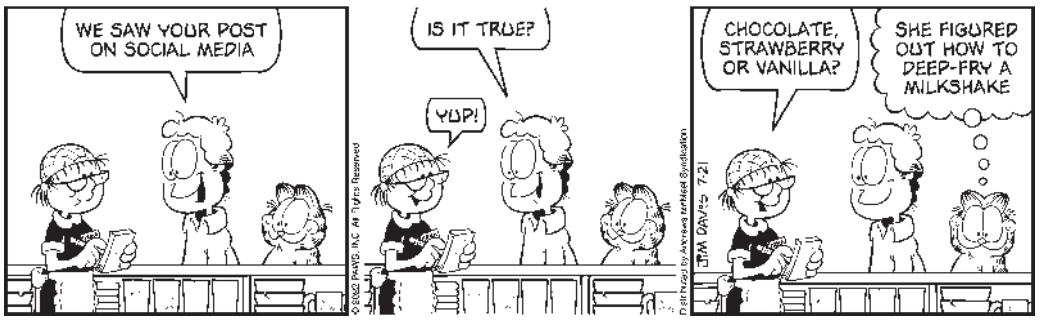
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



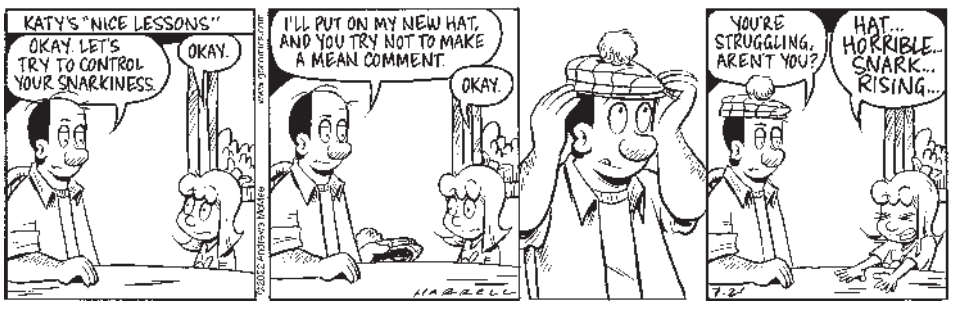
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WE SAW YOUR POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA
IS IT TRUE?
YUP!
CHOCOLATE, STRAWBERRY OR VANILLA?
SHE FIGURED OUT HOW TO DEEP-FRY A MILKSHAKE

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY'S "NICE LESSONS"
OKAY. LET'S TRY TO CONTROL YOUR SNARKINESS.
OKAY.
I'LL PUT ON MY NEW HAT, AND YOU TRY NOT TO MAKE A MEAN COMMENT.
OKAY.
YOU'RE STRUGGLING, AREN'T YOU?
HAT... HORRIBLE. SNARK... RISING...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Perón of Argentina
4 Siestas
8 First light
12 Bud
13 — Major
14 Actor Morales
15 German shepherd
17 Teen hangout
18 Resistance unit
19 Church topper
21 British party
24 Louvre treasures
25 Khan title
26 The "G" of LGBTQ
28 Doesn't buy
32 Clothing store section
34 Gender
36 Stratagem
37 Green sauce
39 Teeny
41 Shriver of tennis
42 Rainbow shape
44 A Karamazov brother
46 Stew flavorer
50 Chi follower
51 Genesis brother
52 Music school concerts
56 Only
57 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
58 Pool unit
59 Contain
60 Commanded
61 Messy room

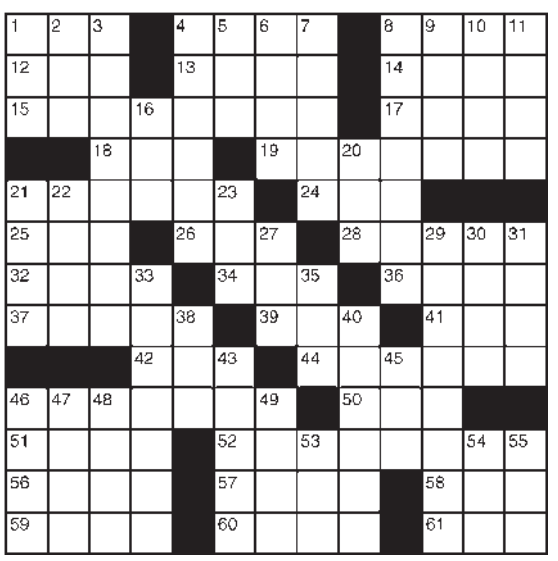
DOWN

1 Clean air org.
2 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
3 Losers
4 Eggnog sprinkling
5 "Entourage" agent
6 Unpaid TV ads
7 Dasher's boss
8 Agriculture goddess
9 Pronto
10 Humpty's perch
11 Egyptian river
16 Sashimi fish
20 Goof up
21 Pack (down)
22 Curved molding
23 Airline to Sweden
27 Evergreen type
29 Wedding
30 Despot
31 Big rig
33 Bought time
35 Deleted
38 Tram load
40 Realm
43 Ersatz chocolate
45 Follower (Suff.)
46 Wild party
47 "Peek-—!"
48 Holler
49 Disaster aid gp.
53 Scoundrel
54 Long. crosser
55 CIA operative

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	A	T		A	S	I	F		H	E	M	I
I	S	H		I	U	T	F		F	O	I	T
F	T	A		G	R	O	U	P	I	U	G	S
S	I	N	A	I			D	U	H			
			R	E	N	O		P	E	T	A	_
A	R	E	A	H	U	G	S		H	U	L	A
H	U	L		S	M	E	L	T		I	O	M
A	L	D	A		B	E	E	R	M	U	G	S
B	E	A	C	H		S	W	A	B			
			C	O	G			N	A	N	N	Y
F	I	R	E	P	L	U	G	S		O	O	O
A	D	D	S		A	M	O	I		M	A	L
B	A	A	S		M	A	T	T		F	M	O

Yesterday's answer 7-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anya Chalotra, 26; Juno Temple, 33; Jasmine Cephas Jones, 33; Jon Lovitz, 65.

Happy Birthday: Put together a plan to get you to the finish line. Don't wait for others to come on board. If you want to fulfill your dreams, it's up to you to give the orders. Put together a schedule that pushes you to use your connections, skills and knowledge to guarantee you reach your destination of choice. Bet on yourself. Your numbers are 3, 10, 24, 26, 34, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Expand your interests to include opportunities to get fit and live a healthy lifestyle. Eliminate waste and all the trappings you don't need. Pare down and discover what's essential, and you'll gain peace of mind. Keep life simple. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep everything in place and judge yourself before judging others. Don't let temptation steal time, money or reputation. Put your energy to good use by doing something physical to help you accomplish what you want to achieve. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Hone your skills and put your attributes toward reaching your destination. An open mind will help shine a light on the possibilities, but putting your skills to the test will verify what comes to pass. Think, strategize and finish what you start. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Find a unique way to use a tried-and-true method to get ahead; it will open doors. Show off what you have to offer, and the suggestions you receive will up your game and push you to get others on board. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* One step forward and three steps back. Slow down and rethink your journey, and you'll find a way to outdo yourself. A smile, kind word and show of affection will help you gain support and hands-on help to get things done on time. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Open your mind and your heart to the universe and you'll learn something valuable. Put your emotions aside when helping others. Stick to the truth if you want to earn respect. Anger won't solve problems; understanding and sage advice will. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Uncertainty is the first signal telling you to put away your wallet. Don't spend what you don't have or buy something you don't need. Someone you work alongside will judge you by your actions. Don't leave yourself open to criticism. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Problems with someone leaning on you will pop up if you aren't open about what you are willing to do and how you feel. Don't hesitate to take matters into your hands if you want things done your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put your money to good use. "Waste not, want not" is the mantra that keeps you out of financial trouble. Too much of anything will set you back and lead to partnership problems. Show restraint, and you'll make a lasting impression. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stick close to home and family. Move things around and declutter your living space. Having a place to pursue something new will make your life easier and prompt you to use the skills you master to deal with the changes you encounter. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Choose your actions and words with caution. Don't give the wrong impression or make promises you cannot keep. Look for an opportunity to explore what's possible, then initiate your plans. Progress depends on doing what's right and best for you. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Participate in events that expand your mind and encourage you to pitch in and make a difference in your community or a cause that concerns you. Concentrating on others will help you realize your good fortune. Personal growth is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dogmatic, resilient and sensitive. You are protective and strong-willed.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3			5			4	8
6		9	2					7
	1					9		
	5							
3								5
							8	
		4					3	
8					3	1		2
7	9			8			5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	6	8	4	1	2	7	3
7	1	8	3	2	5	9	6	4
3	2	4	9	7	6	5	8	1
6	3	7	4	5	9	8	1	2
5	4	2	6	1	8	3	9	7
1	8	9	7	3	2	4	5	6
2	7	1	5	8	4	6	3	9
8	6	3	2	9	7	1	4	5
4	9	5	1	6	3	7	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DIDN'T COST A CENT **Solution: 13 letters**

C	D	E	T	A	I	T	O	G	E	N	E	V	I	G
A	E	I	O	E	D	E	I	F	I	L	L	U	(N)	R
B	E	N	S	A	U	M	A	D	A	N	E	I	(I)	A
S	R	C	A	C	M	L	L	I	B	R	H	L	(L)	T
O	F	R	I	U	O	O	A	P	L	T	E	L	A	I
L	I	O	O	V	G	U	U	V	O	I	D	E	P	S
V	M	R	R	N	R	H	N	N	O	N	E	C	U	E
E	N	E	A	G	O	E	T	T	T	Y	E	N	O	M
T	T	C	A	T	O	H	S	E	N	D	R	A	C	U
A	G	I	F	T	E	A	D	E	N	E	U	C	E	I
M	L	R	Y	H	V	A	E	F	D	I	M	E	R	M
I	L	P	O	I	R	S	D	O	O	G	C	Y	S	E
T	E	U	N	G	K	C	A	B	K	C	I	K	A	R
S	S	G	P	R	E	T	R	A	B	Y	N	N	E	P
E	S	U	O	T	I	U	T	A	R	G	D	E	A	L

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Absolve, Amount, Barter, Bill, Cancel, Deal, Dime, Discount, Dues, Estimate, Fare, Fee, Forgo, Free, Gift, Given, Goods, Gratis, Gratuitous, Honor, Kickback, Money, Nada, Naught, Negotiate, Nickel, Nil, None, Nothing, Nullified, On the House, Payment, Penny, Premium, Price, Rate, Recoup, Sale, Savings, Sell, Service, Trade, Upgrade, Value, Void

Yesterday's Answer: Come True

The NEW **Treasury 48** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

All-Stars showcase modern MLB: HRs, strikeouts, shifts

LOS ANGELES (AP)— The All-Star Game showcased what baseball has become — home runs, strikeouts and offense-killing shifts.

The National League didn't have a hit between the first and eighth innings of Tuesday night's 3-2 loss, its ninth in a row.

In a sport where R&D has become as important as BP, four of the five runs scored on long balls.

There were 22 strikeouts, including the final three batters on 10 pitches by Cleveland's Emmanuel Clase in a game that lasted 3 hours, 11 minutes despite just 13 hits, five walks, two hit batters and one runner reaching on a error.

Twenty All-Stars threw 299 pitches, 105 of them fastballs. The slowest fastball was 90.2 mph on the second pitch of the game from 34-year-old left-hander Clayton Kershaw.

Forty-eight were 98 mph or higher, and Ryan Helsley of the St. Louis Cardinals was velocity king. The 28-year-old topped 100 mph on eight of 15 tosses, the fastest a 103 mph blazer that Minnesota's Luis Arraez fouled off in the eighth.

"I went out there, showed what I had," Helsley said. "It was a cool environment being in this game."

Seattle's Ty France, greeted by Dodger Stadium organist Dieter Ruehle with "La Vie en Rose" when he pinch hit for his All-Star debut, fouled off a Helsley fastball, then struck out when he chased a low outside slider.

AP

National League's Paul Goldschmidt, of the St. Louis Cardinals, prepares to touch home after connecting for a solo home run off American League pitcherShane McClanahan, of the Tampa Bay Rays, during the first inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 19, 2022, in Los Angeles.

"The way game is now, everybody's throwing that hard. It's not fun to face, but it's just how the game is," France said. "To be able to step in the box on this stage, it was pretty cool."

Clase, a 24-year-old Cleveland right-hander, threw 10 pitches ranging from 97.7 mph to 100.3 mph.

"Every time that bullpen door swings open, it's velocity," NL manager Brian Snitker said. "The guys, they weren't like that. The closers weren't throwing like they are now. But it's kind of the way they are growing up and now they are trained — and amazing to me, the number of them, too. It's like they just keep coming."

Defensive positioning designed by Joe Espada, Dusty Baker's bench coach in Houston, led to outs on balls that used to be hits.

Juan Soto's third-inning grounder was gloved by second baseman Andrés Giménez 20 feet into right field. Kyle Schwarber's bouncer in the seventh was picked up in the center of the diamond by shortstop Corey Seager, who started to the right of second, and Jake Cronenworth's hopper went directly to second baseman Santiago Espinal 10 feet into right field.

"The shift giveth and the shift taketh away," Baker said. "But still, I think it giveth more than it takes away."

The batter's eye in center field offered a vivid display of what has overtaken baseball — an array of high-speed cameras and radar equipment that track every ball's spin, every player's sprint and stumble.

Behinds the scenes, many teams consider their quants All-Stars, too. Houston's front office includes a quantitative developer, plus two senior architects.

The NL did all its scoring during Shane McClanahan's first 13 pitches of the first inning, getting Ronald Acuña Jr's leadoff double, Mookie Betts' RBI single and Paul Goldschmidt's homer.

AL offense was even more condensed. Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer in the fourth off Tony Gonsolin, and Byron Buxton went deep four pitches later.

Not a surprise in a season that has been the big league batting average dip to .242, its lowest since 1967.

Baseball's competition committee is considering changes for next season that some purists consider revolutionary and some conclude necessary. A pitch clock is almost certain after testing throughout the minors this year. Shift limits also have been proposed.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred is gung-ho for change, but players appear less enthusiastic for change. Still, the union agreed to let a committee with a management majority make changes starting with next season.

"Our players have been, unsurprisingly, very much engaged in the process," union head Tony Clark said, "more than willing to offer their thoughts on what makes sense, what may not make sense, what may need to be adjusted and tweaked."

Clayton Kershaw soaks in All-Star start at Dodger Stadium

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Clayton Kershaw's news conference after his first All-Star Game start was nearly over when Blake Grice spoke up.

The 10-year-old from Denver said his grandfather was a Dodgers fan and a Redondo Beach native who died of brain cancer. Meeting Kershaw allowed Blake to check off an item on his grandfather's bucket list, the boy said before tearing up.

Kershaw smiled, rose from the dais and grabbed Blake in a protective hug.

"Your granddad sounded like an awesome guy," Kershaw said. "Thanks for coming up. That took a lot of courage, man. That was awesome."

After posing for photos by Blake's father, Kershaw returned to the dugout for the final innings of the Midsummer Classic in a stadium full of fans who adore him just as much as Blake, who does baseball card reviews on YouTube.

Kershaw is reminded of what he means to baseball and to Los Angeles during every start he makes at Dodger Stadium, where he is appropriately beloved as a vital piece of a perennial NL powerhouse since 2008.

After nine All-Star selections and six previous appearances in the game, the three-time Cy Young Award winner serendipitously got his first chance to start an All-Star Game in his home park, and he met the occasion by throwing an entertaining, scoreless first inning.

The AL eventually rallied for a 3-2 victory with three runs off fellow Dodgers starter Tony Gonsolin in the fourth, but Kershaw will have mostly positive memories of a landmark day in his career.

"It was actually a lot of fun today to be out there, and the crowd was awesome," Kershaw said. "I can't say enough good things about Dodger fans, people in LA in general, just how much these last few days, how much they wanted me to do this. It meant a lot to me."

Kershaw also gave himself permission to soak in the moment right before he stepped onto the mound to face Shohei Ohtani.

After all, the 34-year-old Kershaw has done just about everything it's possible to do as a pitcher in modern baseball, but the 2014 NL MVP had never started an All-Star Game before. He also knew he'll never get the opportunity again to do it in front of the fans who have been behind him since he was a 20-year-old phenomenon.

"I tried to take a minute at the beginning to take it all in and look around, which I usually never do," Kershaw said. "Being here at Dodger Stadium, a place where I've been now for 15 years, and to get to do something like this with the best in the world, is really fun. And it was also really personal for me and my family, everybody. I'm excited it's over."

The All-Star Game was special for the entire home organization. The NL-leading Dodgers placed six players on the roster, and both Mookie Betts and Trea Turner got hits in the first inning. Freddie Freeman grounded out as a pinch-hitter in the third, and left-hander Tyler Anderson was among the pitchers who didn't get to play.

While Gonsolin took the loss, he looked good doing it. Kershaw bought a custom-made suit for Gonsolin to wear to his first All-Star game — and unsurprisingly, the cat-obsessed Gonsolin added two feline paw prints to the breast pocket.

But the hometown star of the night was undoubtedly Kershaw, who got the first of several standing ovations when he took the field for his pregame stretching. He got one of the biggest pops from the crowd during pregame introductions, and he got another when he took the mound.

When he gave up a broken-bat single to Ohtani on his first pitch, Kershaw wasn't bothered. He knew Ohtani was going to swing at his first throw, and he didn't feel right starting off an All-Star Game with a breaking ball.

"He didn't hit it over the fence, so it was a win and we can move on," Kershaw said. "You kind of had to give him a heater there. Had to do it."

Kershaw then atoned by picking Ohtani off first base, although he claimed it was accidental: He was trying to decide what pitch to throw next to Aaron Judge, so he only threw to first to buy himself some time, but caught Ohtani leaning.

Kershaw struck out Judge, but walked Rafael Devers before Vladimir Guerrero Jr. grounded into an inning-ending forceout. Kershaw did some scouting work before the game, but only on the top of the AL lineup.

"If I'd had to face more than four batters, I didn't know what to do," Kershaw said.

Kershaw was in an upbeat mood throughout Tuesday night — not only because of his celebratory evening, but because he had already accomplished his toughest task of the All-Star break.

When asked what he'll remember about the week's festivities, he quipped: "My 2-year-old is a maniac. Trying to wrangle him for the Home Run Derby, I don't think I've ever been more tired than I was last night."

For Ukrainian high jumper, world silver feels like gold

EUGENE, Ore. (AP)— The second-place finish at world championships was beside the point for Ukraine's best high jumper, Yaroslava Mahuchikh.

"For me, it's gold," she said Tuesday night, as she looked down at her newly won prize, one nobody would have been right to expect four months ago after she took a three-day car trip to flee her hometown and get away from the bombing.

Mahuchikh left shortly after her country came under siege by the Russian military. The war grinds on. Though thousands of civilians and soldiers are dying, Mahuchikh felt it was her duty to keep doing what she does best, if for no other reason than to give people back home something to be happy about. And, she said, to show Ukraine is strong.

"We will fight for our independence and for our territory," she said. "And of course, finally, we will win."

She came into the biggest high jump contest of the year as a favorite, in part because the three-time defending champion, Maria Lasitskene, is from Russia and not allowed to compete in major events due to the war.

The Ukrainian finished behind the surprising Eleanor Patterson of Australia, who had one fewer miss than Mahuchikh at 2.02 meters x(6 feet, 7 1/2 inches), which made the difference between first and second.

Still, this was a night to celebrate for Ukraine, and for Mahuchikh, who said she felt the warmth from the stands, where the yellow-and-blue Ukraine flags dotted a few seats and fans cheered for her before every jump.

"Now, everything is for our Ukrainian people, and everything you do, you want to show the good results," she said.

The silver medal goes alongside the gold she won at the world indoor championships in March. That came shortly after she escaped her hometown of Dnipro, which had come under attack by Russia and, she said, is under siege today.

She is one of 22 Ukrainian athletes in Eugene this week for the championships, all of whom have been training far from home — some in Portugal, others in Spain, still others in Poland and Mahuchikh most recently in California after stops in Serbia, Germany and Turkey.

Her teammate, Iryna Gerashchenko, finished fourth — also a spectacular result given her plight after bombs started falling near her home in Kyiv.

AP

Silver medalist Yaroslava Mahuchikh, of Ukraine, poses on the podium after the women's high jump final at the World Athletics Championships on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, in Eugene, Ore.

After sheltering in her parents' basement for about a week, she left without spikes and trained for a time in tennis shoes.

"Things are a bit better, but at the same time, the war is going on," said Gerashchenko, whose jump of 2 meters (6 feet, 6 3/4) was a personal best. "It's very hard to live the life before, the previous life. But I'm very happy that my parents are safe."

Mahuchikh's medal gives Ukraine two at the halfway point of worlds.

A night earlier, Andriy Protsenko won bronze in the men's high jump. His victory comes months after he was trapped for nearly six weeks in his hometown of Kherson, which is near the Crimean peninsula and under Russian occupation.

"It made me realize that anything is possible," said Ukrainian hurdler Anna Ryzhykova, who finished second in her preliminary heat shortly before Mahuchikh took to the field. "He trained one month in an occupied city where he was risking his life. It's amazing."

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe was on hand. His federation was one of the first to banish Russians from these major events, a decision made, he said, because there was no fairness in allowing in athletes from an aggressor nation while those from the country under attack were living such fragile existences.

"Some of them are living at their training camps and can't get home, some are wondering where loved ones are," Coe said. "Their houses have been destroyed. It's inconceivable. I don't think any of us have that within our framework of reference."

Mahuchikh said her mom, sister and niece are safe in Germany. Her dad and grandfather remain in Dnipro, where she said they can sometimes hear artillery firing.

There is no timeline for when she might get back to her home country to show off the silver medal.

"I wish I could come back home to our airport, to speak to our journalists, and with our relatives," she said. "But I can't do it now. The Russians have taken that opportunity from me."

Hornets forward Bridges facing 3 domestic violence charges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlotte Hornets forward Miles Bridges is facing three felony domestic violence charges after being accused of assaulting his girlfriend in front of their two children last month, the Los Angeles County district attorney said Tuesday.

District Attorney George Gascón said his office filed one felony count of injuring a child's parent and two felony counts of child abuse under circumstances or conditions likely to cause great bodily injury or death. Bridges is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday.

"Children who witness family violence are especially vulnerable and the impact on them is immeasurable," Gascón said.

Bridges was arrested on June 29 by Los Angeles police and was later released on $130,000 bond.

The Hornets and the NBA both said they were aware of the charges filed against Bridges.

"These are very serious charges that we will continue to monitor," the Hornets said. "As this is a legal matter, we will have no further comment at this time."

AP

Charlotte Hornets forward Miles Bridges (0) moves up court during an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets on Monday, March 28, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

Bridges' agent, Rich Paul, could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday night.

Mychelle Johnson, the mother of Bridges' two young children, addressed the incident on Instagram on July 1, posting several pictures of injuries and a medical report that read "adult victim of physical abuse by male partner; Assault by strangulation, Brain concussion; Closed fracture of nasal bone; Contusion of rib; Multiple bruises; Strain of neck muscle."

"I hate that it has come to this but I can't be silent anymore. I've allowed someone to destroy my home, abuse me in every way possible and traumatize our kids for life," Johnson wrote on Instagram. "I have nothing to prove to the world, but I won't allow anyone who could do something so horrible to have no remorse and paint a picture of something I'm not. I won't allow the people around him to continue to silence me and continue to lie to protect this person."

The 24-year-old Bridges is a restricted free agent who was expected to command big money in the free agent market this summer following a breakout season.

The 6-foot-7, 225-pound Bridges was the Hornets' leading scorer last season, averaging 20.2 points and seven rebounds in his fourth NBA season.

The Hornets have extended Bridges a qualifying offer allowing them a chance to match any offer sheet made by another team. The team had indicated prior to knowledge of Bridges' arrest that it wanted to re-sign him.

Bodybuilding included in 2023 Pacific Games program

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After an awe-inspiring performance by Team NMI in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games last month, its athletes are now setting their eyes at the 2023 Pacific Games in November, with bodybuilding included in the program, according to Latte Built 24 Hour Gym's Facebook page on July 5.

Latte Built said first and foremost, for "athletes representing [the CNMI] who wish to join the team must compete in the Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation in order to qualify for the Pacific Games competition."

This year's DC Classic and the NMBBPF is scheduled for Nov. 5, 2022.

"The federation is in discussion about hosting next year's competition in the summer of 2023 to give athletes plenty of time to dial in their final package for November 2023 Pacific Games," said Latte Built management about next year's DC Classic competition.

When asked if anyone has already expressed interest in joining the Pacific Games, they said "there are already a few men and women competitors who are interested. Some have competed before, and a few are new to the sport but there's still plenty of time, so we suggest if you do want to be part of the team you start now.

They added that there is "no limit" for participants "but just like the Mini Games sports we will narrow it down to a strong team before the Pacific Games in November [2023]."

Interested persons may contact federation president Dee Clayton at dianemmc1@yahoo.com or contact the official team coach Derek Cutting at lattebuilt@gmail.com.

Last year, Derek Cutting won the 2021 DC Classic overall bodybuilding competition.

The Northern Marianas Sports Association earlier this month announced that with the help of the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, they are looking at chartering a flight to send 150-200 athletes to the 2023 Pacific Games.

For the 2023 Honoria Pacific Games, 24 countries are anticipated to join and the program consists of 24 sports including archery, athletics, basketball, bodybuilding, boxing, football, futsal, golf, hockey, karate, netball, outrigger canoeing, powerlifting, rugby league nines, rugby sevens, sailing, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, touch rugby, triathlon, volleyball, beach volleyball, and weightlifting.

Other CNMI sports teams have yet to confirm their participation in the Pacific Games.

MICHAEL JORNAL
Derek Cutting won the overall bodybuilding competition of the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic last November at the Saipan World Resort.

HANMI golf tourney registration now open

Registration is now open for the 20th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Sept. 17, 2022, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Registration forms are now available at www.saipanhotels.org, www.facebook.com/HANMI670, and at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort and Coral Ocean Resort. The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants.

"We're excited to announce the opening of registration for this year's tournament," said HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament Organizing Committee chair Juko Ishikawa. "We expect to deliver the same outstanding tournament that HANMI is known for. Registration usually fills up fast, so we invite everyone to register before the early bird deadline for a great day of golf benefitting Northern Marianas Technical Institute this year."

The early bird tournament fee is $120 and includes green fee and the awards luncheon. The fee increases to $140 after the early bird deadline of Friday, Sept. 3, at 5pm. For an additional $30 players may also compete for optional play prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, aggressive drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin.

This year's tournament will benefit Northern Marianas Technical Institute. Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. The awards banquet will immediately follow the tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

For more information, contact Tournament Chairman Juko Ishikawa at worldresort@pticom.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course will host the 20th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament this coming Sept. 17.

JOSHUA

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be tied for ninth place. He still has a lot of work ahead of him as he plays the next 54 holes."

Earlier this month on July 11, Joshua was also invited to the qualifier for the K.J. Choi Foundation Junior Championship presented by Overnight Printing Seattle at The Golf Club at Hawks Prairie in Lacey, Washington.

During the Mini Games last month, Joshua finished with a score of 383 in four rounds at the Coral Ocean Resort Golf Course. He shot an 80 on Day 1 before firing an 82 and 83 in the next two rounds. Joshua then helped the CNMI to a bronze medal finish in the team event on the last day by carding a 78.

Today is the last day of the tourney in California with the final results to be published in the coming issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

CAROL

From Page 20

doubles mark.

Lee led the Yellow Jackets from the No. 1 positions in both singles and doubles. In singles, Lee went 16-5 from the No. 1 spot and compiled an 8-5 record against league opponents.

She climbed as high as No. 22 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association national singles rankings and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships. She finished the season with an 11-8 record against ranked opponents.

Lee also teamed up with Kate Sharabura, who earned all-ACC third team honors, in doubles action to make up the No. 5-ranked doubles team in the country.

The two went 22-6 overall and 17-3 in dual action this season, mainly from the No. 1 position. Lee and Sharabura earned the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Championship, solidifying ITA All-American honors for the duo.

Aside from Lee and Sharabura, teammates Kylie Bilchev and Ava Hrastar were also named to the all-ACC third team.

Last week, Lee made the dean's list for the spring 2022 semester at Georgia Tech. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

Georgia Tech, whose full name is Georgia Institute of Technology, is a Top 10 public research university developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

It offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its nearly 44,000 students, representing 50 states and 149 countries, study at the main campus in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, and through distance and online learning.

CNMI

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accommodate.

"Ideally, we would like to have a 2,500-square foot facility, but we will take what they'd give us. In fact, we'll settle for 1,500 square feet. But it'll be very, very, very, very tight. But we'll take what we can get," he said.

During the Team NMI Celebration Dinner at Kensington Resort earlier this month, NMSA president Jerry Tan said weightlifting deserves a facility of its own after leading Team NMI in medals won during the Mini Games.

"With their result, they have every right to talk to NMSA. Yeah, they already gave me a little bit of requirements or requests for what they want…with those results coming from weightlifting they deserve it," said Tan.

Davis said with the sport having a facility of its own, CNMI Weightlifting can set its sights not only on the Micronesian Games, Mini Games, and Pacific Games, but tournaments as big as the Asian Games.

"You know what I mean is [we can compete in] the Asian championships, so on and so forth, on a regular basis. So you have a program… You're supposed to have a program…Well, we got programs, but that's not going to do us any good if we don't have a facility," he said.

Davis hopes the government and NMSA will not only accommodate CNMI Weightlifting's request for a training facility, but also all sports federations for that matter that also need a facility they can call their own.

"If they're serious about supporting sports. They would be trying to get a place not just for weightlifting, but to build facilities even if it's two or three years down the road… We're not talking about recreational facilities… We'd be talking about where our athletes can train at a world championship level."

Davis also thanked the Mini Games Organizing Committee for helping CNMI Weightlifting host not only the Mini Games competition but also the Oceania Weightlifting Championships at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. He also thanked the rest of the officers of CNMI Weightlifting, Oceania Weightlifting Federation, technical delegate Paul Coffa, and last but not the least the volunteers that helped the weightlifting competition run smoothly.

Of the 16 gold medals won by the CNMI during the 11th staging of the Mini Games, weightlifting contributed 11 of them. Of the 38 medals won overall by the CNMI, the sport bagged 23 that also included 10 silver and two bronze medals.

All-Stars showcase modern MLB: HRs, strikeouts, shifts

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Sports

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CNMI Weightlifting wants own training facility

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fresh from winning the lion's share of the medals in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, CNMI Weightlifting now wants a facility of its own to build on that success.

CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis said the sport has not only shown its mettle in the just concluded Mini Games, but also gave the Commonwealth medals in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa and the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap, the Federated States of Micronesia.

"We don't have a space to train. We have equipment now. We have everything we need to do to compete at a high-level international competition… We have it right here on the island right now, but we don't have a facility to put all that equipment in and to train the number of athletes that we might need to actually compete at a regular international level," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Davis said CNMI Weightlifting isn't asking for the moon when it comes to a weightlifting training facility and is even willing to compromise with what the government and the Northern Marianas Sports Association can

See CNMI on Page 19

NMPMG2022/DCCA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Angel San Nicolas lets out a roar after a succesful lift during the weightlifting competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Carol named to all-ACC Team

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Carol Lee is not only making her home islands proud in academics, but also in tennis after the incoming junior at Georgia Tech earned first-team all-Atlantic Coast Conference last month.

"I would like to thank my family, my coaches, my friends, and people who have been supporting me," she told *Saipan Tribune* immediately after receiving the news that she made the elite list.

According to the technology-focused college in Atlanta's sports website, ramblinwreck.com, Lee was named first-team all-ACC after compiling a 25-8 overall singles record and 22-6 overall

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Lee

Joshua Atalig in Top 10 at Peach Tree

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After being invited to not one but two golf tournaments by the American Junior Golf Association earlier this month, CNMI national golfer Joshua Atalig clubbed his way to the Top 10 at the qualifier for the AJGA Junior at the Peach Tree Golf & Country Club in Marysville, California.

The 15-year-old Marianas High School student and son of fellow national golfer J.J. Atalig once again showed off his golf skills after tying ninth place overall out of 52 junior golfers nationwide during the qualifier last July 18.

According to J.J. Atalig, Joshua made the cut on the qualifying round. "He [finished] with a birdie on hole No. 18 to tally a gross score of 74. He is tied for ninth place out [of] 52 players."

"AJGA selects Top 5 players to advance. Joshua entered a five-players playoff. He made the cut after four holes when he split the fairway and hit his second shot to 4 feet and birdied to advance," he added about his son's performance during the tourney.

When asked how Joshua felt after placing the Top 10 in the nation, his father told *Saipan Tribune* that he was "amazed that he could compete with players outside the CNMI and

See JOSHUA on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua Atalig is seen prepping during the AJGA Junior qualifiers in the Peach Tree Golf & Country Club in Marysville, California.